

## South Australia Red Cross Information Bureau records: a web resource and indexing project at the State Library of SA to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC

In the first World War the Red Cross Society established information bureaux in Australian capital cities to provide a communication and tracing service between the families of serving soldiers and the overseas bases. Advertisements were placed in newspapers and enquiries flooded in. In SA, 8,000 queries were answered, resulting in a 'packet' of information for each soldier enquired upon, included in envelopes which made up the main work of the SA Red Cross Information Bureau.

In 1922, the Bureau closed its doors and donated its records to the State Library of SA. To mark the centenary of ANZAC, the State Library is digitising and indexing the 8,000 plus packets to create a web resource that will be launched in time for the centenary. Indexing will initially be carried out by a team of volunteers who will use a controlled vocabulary developed with advice from the Australian War Memorial. The Library will also endeavour to introduce crowd sourcing techniques like Trove to complete the indexing.

The web resource that is produced will comprise three elements:

1. The original packets of information related to the 8000 requests made through the Bureau – digitised so that the community can see the original documents
2. A place for members of the community to contribute additional information. This may range from family photos of the subjects, or letters and diaries that the family may hold, to personal reminiscences of loved ones.
3. An automated "harvesting" of data from third-party

sources such as the National Archives, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Trove which directly relates to the soldiers who are the subjects of the Bureau's enquiries. Linked Open Data and OAIPMH (Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting) standards will be applied enabling linking of information and contributing to rich networks of information, linking knowledge in ways SLSA never has. The Imperial War Museum (UK) and the National Archives of Australia are also building new web resources based upon these new standards which will enable connections between our records.

This web resource will enable researchers and family historians worldwide to interrogate and contribute to the database and further understand South Australia's role in the conflict. The records digitised for this resource will feed into other SLSA projects and can be used by other agencies and cultural institutions.

The State Library of South Australia is currently utilising its internal resources to digitise the Bureau's records as well as managing all aspects of this project where the Library has the necessary skills. And the Library will continue to manage this site once it has been completed.

To learn more about this project, see the short film at <http://youtu.be/85S1TY0XZ04>.

Lest we forget.

Janet Wilkinson, Metadata Coordinator  
Andrew Piper, Project Manager

## 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

**Allen Lane:** *Europe: the struggle for supremacy, 1453 to the present*, by Brendan Simms (2013, 720 pp, £30). Rev. by B. Clayton, [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk), 18 April 2013.

To write a history of Europe since 1500 is a daunting task. Brendan Simms has done so in a masterly fashion. Brilliantly researched with excellent maps this will be the standard work for many a year. It is nice also to see a book with an excellent index, quite rare these days. The bibliography is extensive and up-to-date.

**Brill:** *Martin Bucer: Briefwechsel/Correspondance, vol. VIII, April 1532–August 1532*, ed. by Wolfgang Simon, Berndt Hamm, and Reinhold Friedrich (2011, ix + 457 pp, \$176). Rev. by Milton Kooistra, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 44(2), summer 2013.

In keeping with previous two volumes, this one also includes a 'Personenindex' that provides biographies of the people mentioned in the volume. This is followed by an index of biblical verses,

place names, and subjects referenced throughout the letters. The decision to abandon the 'Personenregister' of the first four volumes in favor of a 'Personenindex' is to be applauded. Rather than have to hunt through the volume for biographical data on a certain person, instead, each time someone is mentioned in a particular letter, the reader is directed to the 'Personenindex,' where one finds the necessary biographical information, but also references to the pages in which the person is mentioned .... The Bucer editors should be commended for their hard work in producing such a fine volume. The critical edition of Bucer's correspondence will be of immense service to Reformation scholars for generations to come.

**Cambridge University Press:** *The global cryosphere, past, present and future*, by Roger Barry and Thian Yew Gan (2011, 472 pp, £42.50). Rev. by Steve Rowlett, *Geoscientist*, **23**(3), April 2013.

The book includes a useful index, glossary and a large list of references ...

**Duquesne University Press:** A variorum commentary on the poems of John Milton: volume 5, part 4, *Paradise Lost*, book 4, by Cheryl H. Fresch, ed. by P. J. Klemp (2011, 508 pp, \$85). Rev. by Julia Griffin, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, **44**(2), summer 2013.

No doubt because it is only one part of one section of the whole Variorum, the book has no introduction; this makes one all the more grateful for the truly excellent index, which provides a sort of retroactive summary, not only giving every reference to each critic cited, but briefly explaining the subject of each reference. It is thus easy to look up a particular critic's ideas on a particular topic (what does Christopher Ricks have to say about Eve?), and also to see how many times a critic is cited.

**Jordan:** *Running a limited company*, by David Impey and Nicholas Montague (7th edn 2011, 209 pp, £25). Rev. by Glen Vaal, [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk), 9 February 2002.

It has a good index, and has proved particularly useful with (1) holding and minuting official company meetings; (2) Basic company accounts preparation.

**Longman:** *Moving probation forward: evidence, arguments and practice*, by Wing Hong Chui and Mike Nellis (2003, 312 pp, £44.99). Rev. by 'A Customer', [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk), 22 December 2004.

Really easy to read and really well indexed. Save yourself a lot of effort trawling through boring academic bumf and buy this book.

**Leo S. Olschki:** *La nazione ebraica spagnola e portoghese di Ferrara (1492-1559): i suoi rapporti col governo ducale e la popolazione locale ed i suoi legami con le nazioni portoghesi di Ancona, Pesaro e Venezia*, by Aron di Leone Leoni, ed. by Laura Graziani Secchieri (2011, 2 vols, xl + 1,310 pp, €120). Rev. by Christine Meek, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, **44**(2), summer 2013.

There are extensive indexes of places and especially of persons, giving alternative Jewish and Christian names where applicable, and where possible identifying individuals and their professional activities and relationships to each other. This is of particular value given the complexity of naming practices among the Portuguese community. These documents and indexes will be a mine of information to future researchers interested in the Jewish diaspora in Ferrara and elsewhere.

**Michael Russell:** *Tarantula's web: John Hayward, T. S. Eliot and their circle*, by John Smart (2013, 343 pp, £19.95). Rev. by Richard Davenport-Hines, *Literary Review*, May 2013.

This is yet another elegant, immaculate, scrupulously indexed volume from the small independent publishing house of Michael Russell. It is a pleasure to handle: Michael Russell deserves the Order of Merit for his services to literary intelligence.

**Simon & Schuster:** *A universe from nothing*, by Lawrence M. Krauss (2012, 224 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Brian R. Martin, <http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1471112683>, 17 February 2012.

This book gives a very clear discussion of some of the most exciting ideas in cosmology today, and gives a real feeling for what enormous strides have been made in understanding the origins of the universe, as well as the unanswered questions. But the discussion is necessarily sometimes quite technical, with terms and concepts introduced without much explanation. This could mean a steep learning curve for someone without at least some previous acquaintance with the material, although there is an excellent index to enable one to navigate around the book.

**Society of Indexers:** *Newcomers: a selection of articles for those new to indexing*, by Glenda Browne et al (ebook, 2012, £8). Rev. by Sue Littleford, *Editing Matters*, May/June 2013.

A good index, we are told, gives the user multiple entry points into the document at hand. Those cunning folk at the Society of Indexers have applied precisely this principle to their collection of 23 articles culled from *The Indexer*, the first of a planned series .... Yes, it's indexed – a proper ebook index with no page numbers. The cross references and direct references I tested worked perfectly.

**University of Alberta Press:** *Alfalfa to ivy: memoir of a Harvard Medical School dean*, by Joseph B. Martin (2011, xxi + 457 pp, £29.50). Rev. by Thoru Pederson, *The Pharos*, Spring 2013.

Of special pleasure to me was the superb index, which academic autobiographies sometimes lack, to the great frustration of the avid reader. [*Index by LASC member Noeline Bridge.*]

## Two cheers!

**Oxford University Press:** *European Union design law: a practitioners' guide*, by David Stone (2012, 496 pp, £145). Rev. by Darren Smyth, <http://ipkitten.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know.html>, 20 March 2013.

The result is a book that contains in under 500 pages (in a slim and elegant red tome) the apparent content of a much more extensive text. This reviewer has had occasion while the book has been in his possession to check a number of relatively obscure points of EU design law, and in every single case the book has contained the answer, and in almost all cases the answer has readily been ascertainable very quickly, thanks to the excellent headings and indexing. In only one case was the answer elusive – is double protection by Community and national registered designs for the same design permitted? – and the answer was difficult to find because the Regulation refers to 'simultaneous' protection, and it was indexed under that term (the answer is yes, by the way).

## Indexes censured

**De Gruyter Saur:** *IFLA: A History and Chronology of Sessions*

1927–2012, by Jeffrey M. Wilhite (2012, 360 pp, €85.95/£74.29).  
Rev. by Elizabeth Anne Melrose, *CILIP Update*, May 2013.

The work includes a bibliography, appendixes and a name index, but the latter is not comprehensive.

**Racing Post:** *Henry Cecil: trainer of genius*, by Brough Scott (2013, 368 pp, £20). Rev. by Stoker Devonshire, *The Spectator*, 1 June 2013.

It is a great book, but I wish the integrated grey-and-white photographs had been stronger and that the index had been complete.

**University of California Press:** *The art of modern China*, by Julia F. Andrews and Kuiyi Shen (2012, 280 pp, \$80). Rev. by Michael Sullivan, *Times Literary Supplement*, 12 April 2013.

In spite of its inadequate index, and minimal sections on sculpture and architecture, *The Art of Modern China* is an important contribution to the study of modern Chinese art. It includes a detailed chronology, a glossary of Chinese characters, and richly formative endnotes making full use of journals only to be found in Chinese libraries. It should be essential reading for any student embarking on the study of modern Chinese art.

**Yale University Press:** *The making of the First World War*, by Ian Beckett (2012, 263 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Ian Cawood, *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 March 2013.

Beckett looks in depth at Turkey, Israel, Australia and the Habsburg Empire, but there are only two mentions of Ireland and one of India throughout the book (and no index references to either).

## Indexes omitted

**Faber & Faber/Harvill Secker:** *Here and now: Letters, 2008–2011*, by Paul Auster and J. M. Coetzee (2013, 248 pp, £20). Rev. by James Purdon, *Literary Review*, June 2013.

The conversation is enjoyably wide-ranging, though it can't really be said to illuminate much about either writer's work, and the lack of an index makes this a less user-friendly book than could be wished.

**Gill & Macmillan:** *Fingers: the man who brought down Irish Nationwide and cost us 5.4bn*, by Tom Lyons and Richard Curran (2013, 256 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Liam Fay, *Sunday Times*, 24 March 2013.

The book bears all the hallmarks of a rushed job – the omission of an index being the giveaway.

**Penguin:** *Selected poems*, by Tony Harrison (2013, 288 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian*, 16 March 2013.

Harrison's *Collected Poems* comes in at 474 pages; this is 200 fewer. A *Collected Works*, on the other hand, would run to many volumes, and none of his stage or film verse is included here. Nor is an index, either of poems or first lines, which seems a trifle shabby.

**Oxford University Press:** *The complete works of John Milton, vol. III: the shorter poems*, ed. by Barbara Lewalski and Estelle Haan (2012, 632 pp, £125). Rev. by Colin Burrow, *London Review of Books*, 7 March 2013.

The poems are presented elegantly on the page, with short but clear notes at the back. But with no index of first lines this is, I fear, an edition to be studied rather than used.

**Yale University Press:** *Cézanne and beyond*, ed. by Joseph J. Rishel and Katherine Sachs (2009, 600 pp, \$136.89). Rev. by Marion Boddy-Evans, [http://painting.about.com/od/productreviews/gr/Cezanne\\_Beyond.htm](http://painting.about.com/od/productreviews/gr/Cezanne_Beyond.htm) (date not stated).

Cons:

Expensive (but it is a large format book with a lot of page[s] and photos).

Really heavy (read it at a table!).

Only an index of works illustrated, not a general index.

## Obiter dicta

**Allen Lane/The Penguin Press:** *The anatomy of violence: the biological roots of crime*, by Adrian Raine (2013, 496 pp, £25). Rev. by Oliver James, *Literary Review*, June 2013.

A book about the causes of violence whose extensive index does not include the words 'abuse' or 'trauma' suggests an author who has either not read the evidence or is ignoring it.

**Aurum Press:** *Greasepaint and cordite: how ENSA entertained the troops during World War II*, by Andy Merriman (2013, £20). Rev. by Doreen Hawkins, *The Oldie*, July 2013.

The numbers were also enormous – an eleven-page index is needed to list the contributors to this great and complex organisation [ENSA – the Entertainments National Service Association].

**Quadrille Publishing:** *The great British sewing bee*, by Tessa Eveleigh (2013, 256 pp, £20). Rev. by Karen Ball, 'Did you make that?' (blog), <http://didiyoumakethat.wordpress.com/>, 12 April 2013.

Whenever I receive a new non-fiction book, I always turn straight to the back. Is there an index? For me, this is a basic check of publisher care and investment. If they scrimp on an index, warning bells start ringing. Good news, people! The *Great British Sewing Bee* book has an index .... It's a beautiful book, gorgeously produced. The type of beautiful book that publishers have been producing for decades – they can do this with their eyes shut and with all the freelancers at the end of an email, ready to leap into action.

## Songs of praise (1)

These latest books [21st-century hymn books] have an outward appearance of tradition – hardbound with cloth boards, and the contents arranged liturgically and thematically, supplemented by an array of useful indexes...

Julian Elloway, 'Choosing a new hymn book', *Church Music Quarterly*, June 2013

## Songs of praise (2)

Learn to use a metrical index, so you can sing a wide range of texts to melodies which are familiar.

Frances Novillo, 'Singing unaccompanied: advice for congregations', *Church Music Quarterly*, June 2013

[A metrical index, included in most hymn books, is organized by reference to the number of syllables in each line of the tune, making it easy to find tunes that might be suitable for a particular hymn text.]

### Complaints about the BL

Inigo Thomas is too kind to the British Library (*LRB*, 25 April). The architectural problems aren't limited to the exterior. They're even worse in the reading rooms themselves, where the open-plan layout allows all the noise in the service areas – bleeping from electronic scanners, ringing telephones, fax machines, conversations between staff and readers etc – to go straight out into the reading areas, causing constant distraction and irritation. ... Still more upsetting is the grossly defective digital catalogue. It not only fails to incorporate the printed subject indexes from the pre-digital period – a major omission – but inexcusably fails to inform readers of that omission. This has deprived unwitting readers of thousands of relevant references and caused serious damage to their research.

James Obelkevich, letter, *London Review of Books*,  
23 May 2013

### Count Harry's diaries

The density of [Count Harry Kessler's] social connections – in three countries – accounts in part for the vast scale of the diaries. The Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach has so far published eight volumes of them, beautifully edited and accompanied by excellent indexes and notes, roughly eight thousand pages of text and back matter. (Volume I, the volume Kessler wrote in English, has yet to appear.) Laird Easton, who published a biography of Kessler in 2006, has worked with the Deutsches Archiv and made a single-volume selection of entries from 1880 to 1918 [*Journey to the abyss: the diaries of Count Harry Kessler, 1880-1918*, Knopf, 2011].

Jonathan Steinberg, 'The man who knew everybody',  
*London Review of Books*, 23 May 2013

### An orderly system

Henry tutted and shook his head. 'One can never *find* anything, that's the problem.'

'Really?' said Mark. Thoughtful. Very thoughtful. 'No, I can see you wouldn't be able to. Interesting.'

Over the next half an hour or so Mark assessed the potential. He displayed a constructive interest in Henry's papers: 'Of course

with proper cataloguing ... if you had a comprehensive index, then retrieval of any specific item would be simple ... an orderly system could help your own approach to the memoirs.'

'Quite,' said Henry helplessly. 'Quite so.'

'If I could assist in any way ...' murmured Mark.

Penelope Lively, *How it all began* (Penguin, 2011)

### Oops ...

The late Tory MP and lothario Alan Clark would have greeted Charles Moore's authorised life of Margaret Thatcher [Allen Lane, 2013] with a wry smile. He often complained in his later diaries that he was the only Conservative Minister of his generation not rewarded with a title on retirement.

'I have simply been bypassed,' Clark wrote at the time of the 1995 New Year's honours, blaming his exotic private life.

But where Lady Thatcher and John Major failed him, Charles Moore has triumphed. Like most politicians of the period, Clark would have looked himself up in the index. And that's when the smile would have crossed his face. And there he is – listed as Sir Alan Clark.

'Londoner's Diary', *Evening Standard*, 29 April 2013

### Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:

Jane Angus, Ballater  
Sue Bosanko, London  
Noeline Bridge, New Brunswick, Canada  
Liz Cook, Kirkby Stephen  
Kim Harris, Penzance  
Maureen MacGlashan, Largs  
Róisín Nic Cóil, Maynooth, Co. Kildare  
Frances Paterson, Warrawong, NSW  
Christopher Phipps, London  
Paula Presley, Kirksville, MO  
Caroline Wilding, Knutsford

*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*

**ISO 25964-2 Information and documentation – Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies – Part 2: Interoperability with other vocabularies.** Geneva: International Organization for Standardization, 2013. 99 pp. CHF 196.00

In the June 2012 issue of *The Indexer* (30(2): 109–10) I reviewed the standard ISO 25964-1:2011 *Information and documentation – Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies – Part 1: Thesauri for information retrieval*. Now, a year and a half after the first part was released, the second part, ISO 25964-2:2013 Part 2: *Interoperability with other vocabularies*, has been published.

For some background, Part 1: *Thesauri for information retrieval* provides comprehensive guidelines on how to design thesauri of

terms used for indexing and retrieving multiple documents, articles, pages, files, and so on. While not used for single-volume back-of-the-book indexing, thesauri are important tools for indexing multiple-volume reference works, periodical literature, and other forms of content in database indexing, in order to ensure consistency. ISO 25964-1 (Part 1) is also published as a British Standard, BS ISO 25964-1:2011, and it has considerable overlapping content with the US standard ANSI/NISO Z 39.19-2005 (2010 revision) *Guidelines for the Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies*. ISO 25964-1 (Part 1) differs from ANSI/NISO Z 39.19-2005 in two regards. First, it covers multilingual thesauri, whereas ANSI/NISO Z 39.19 covers only those in English, and second, it covers only thesauri, whereas ANSI/NISO Z 39.19 covers other