

Resource Library. The value of this process was threefold. The OLT benefited from the maturity of ATED's structure and terminology, and saved the cost of creating a bespoke vocabulary. At the same time, ATED was strengthened for its use in other indexing, through the testing of the thesaurus against a pool of literature beyond its traditional sources of warrant. The effectiveness of the process was confirmed in the subsequent re-indexing, after which testing showed improved recall and precision rates for the searching of the database. To capitalize on the investment in this project, it will be important for the OLT and ATED's developers to maintain their close working relationship, so that the thesaurus continues to meet the vocabulary needs of the Resource Library.

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# 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

**Bloomsbury:** *Histories of the Irish future*, by Bryan Fanning (2014, 310 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Hugh Oram, *Books Ireland*, March/April 2015.

The book concludes with exemplary notes, bibliography and index, very traditional but very necessary.

**Cambridge University Press:** *The sublime Seneca: ethics, literature, metaphysics*, by Erik Gunderson (2015, 240 pp, £65). Rev. by Malcolm Schofield, *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 September 2015.

Seneca the hypocrite – the high-minded philosopher who was, at the same time, a self-serving collaborator with the imperial regime – may have been written out of the script in much recent literature ('hypocrisy' does not figure in Gunderson's superb index).

**Canongate:** *The novel cure*, by Ella Berthoud and Susan Alderkin (2015, 464 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Gavin Francis, *The Guardian*, 19 September 2015.

Berthoud and Alderkin's belief in the curative power of the novel has led them to set up a bibliotherapy service 'for life's ailments'. ... An index of authors lets you seek out your darlings and cross reference them with the ailments they have been prescribed for. The result is more bibliophilia than bibliotherapy; an exuberant pageant of literary fiction and a celebration of the possibilities of the novel.

**Facet:** *Linked data for libraries, archives and museums*, by Seth van Hooland and Ruben Verburgh (2014, 224 pp, £49.95). Rev. by John Bottomley, *CILIP Update*, September 2015.

This book is certainly comprehensive but has a detailed index and is well referenced.

**Facet:** *The network reshapes the library: Lorcan Dempsey on libraries, services, and networks*, by Lorcan Dempsey and Kenneth J. Varnum (2014, 320 pp, £44.95). Rev. by John Bottomley, *CILIP Update*, November 2015.

Yes, the book has a good index and is referenced throughout, and yes, blog posts tend to be quite concise, but the book still takes some reading to find things – the fragmentation of the text didn't help it 'flow'.

**Four Courts Press:** *A dictionary of Irish saints*, by Padraig O Riain (2011, 660 pp, €65). Rev. by Ann Buckley, *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, vol. 141, 2011.

There are five separate and extremely useful indexes at the end that list civil parishes, other place-names, alternate (mainly anglicised) personal names, subjects and feast days.

**Four Courts Press:** *Ireland in the medieval world, AD 400–1200*, by Edel Bhreathnach (2013, 316 pp, €24.95 pb, €50 hb). Review by Nick Maxwell, *Archaeology Ireland*, Spring 2014.

This book is a study of Ireland's people, landscape and place in the world from late antiquity to the reign of Brian Boru ... Well indexed ...

**Four Courts Press:** *Lug's forgotten kingdom: the archaeology, history and folklore of the Sil Lugach of Cloghaneely* [Co. Donegal] (2013, 151 pp, €29.95). Rev. by Hugh Oram, *Books Ireland*, Summer 2013.

The dense but immensely informative text is complemented by good, clear photographs and maps and the book is topped off with an excellent bibliography and index. [But see another review of this book under *Indexes censured*.]

**Fourth Estate:** *A year of good eating: kitchen diaries III*, by Nigel

Slater (2015, 560 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Thomas Holt, [www.amazon.co.uk/](http://www.amazon.co.uk/), 28 October 2015.

This book is beautifully presented with good pictures and not too many of them, a strong, practical cover, a marker ribbon, and a comprehensive cross-referenced Index.

**Gill and Macmillan:** *Brian Boru and the battle of Clontarf*, by Sean Duffy (2014, 365pp, €24.99). Rev. by Hugh Oram, *Books Ireland*, May/June 2014.

Visual research for the book is impressive, with its maps, genealogical tables and 27 plates ... as well as a fine index – all the hallmarks of a classic book.

**Harvill Secker:** *The black count: glory, revolution, betrayal and the real Count of Monte Cristo*, by Tom Reiss (2012, 414 pp, £20). Rev. by Eileen Battersby, *The Irish Times*, 13 October 2012.

*The Black Count* is good popular history; relentlessly, lovingly researched, indexed, cross-referenced and anecdotal.

**History Press:** *Celtic saints of Ireland*, by Elizabeth Rees (2013, 190 pp, €16.99). Rev. by 'First Flush', *Books Ireland*, September 2013.

... there is a useful index ...

**Lilliput Press:** *The Irish diaries (1994–2003)*, by Alastair Campbell (2013, 320 pp, £13.49). Rev. by 'First Flush', *Books Ireland*, November 2013.

... there is a very substantial and useful index to this hefty but very readable volume.

**UCD Press:** *Something to chew on: challenging controversies in food and health*, by Mike Gibney (2013, 191 pp, €22). Rev. by Roy Johnston, *Books Ireland*, October 2013.

... there is a good index, and good references.

**Yale University Press:** *Ireland and the Picturesque: design, landscape painting and tourism 1700–1840*, by Finola Kane (2013, 239 pp, £45). Rev. by Hugh Oram, *Books Ireland*, September 2013.

All the sections at the back of the book, notes, appendices, bibliography and index, are invariably excellent...

## Indexes censured

**Amberley:** *Dragon's blood and willow bark: the mysteries of medieval medicine*, by Toni Mount (2015, 288 pp, £20). Rev. by Gavin Francis, *London Review of Books*, 19 November 2015.

Mount's tour of medieval medicine is breezy, not to say breathless. I counted a few mistakes which could easily have been avoided, and every time I went to the index, the entry I was looking for wasn't there.

**Bloomsbury:** *Hirohito's war: the Pacific War 1941–1945*, by Francis Pike (2015, 1,110 pp, £30). Rev. by S. C. M. Paine, *Times Literary Supplement*, 4 December 2015.

Pike's text cries out for an editor to excise half of it. Numerous cross-references to appendices and distant chapters indicate organizational flaws and repetition. The indexer should be banished: entries are incomplete and most people and places have no entry.

Though the book was published in June, the typo-laden online notes were still being checked in October, while those for Chapter 25 remained missing. Based on the New Guinea chapters, the most widely cited source is 'ibid' (accounting for at least one-fifth of the notes), suggesting insufficient originality. Roughly one-third of the sources in the bibliography do not appear in the notes (casting doubt on the utility of those sources), but endemic alphabetization errors make this hard to ascertain. The maps also contain numerous errors and omissions. In short, Bloomsbury has published a draft, not a polished manuscript.

**Bloomsbury Continuum:** *The unexpected story of Nathaniel Rothschild*, by John Cooper (2015, 384 pp, £30). Rev. by Andrew Lycett, *Daily Telegraph*, 18 July 2015.

The book is prefaced by an interesting essay on Rothschild's penchant for secrecy. However, there's the odd textual lapse and the index leaves out several characters.

**British Library and Hendrickson:** *Codex Sinaiticus: new perspectives on the ancient biblical manuscript*, ed. by Scot McKendrick et al. (2015, 320 pp, £50). Rev. by J. K. Elliott, *Times Literary Supplement*, 6 November 2015.

It is regrettable that the section on the Septuagint contains only three short essays, even if extant folios of the Greek Old Testament well exceed the number of folios of its New Testament, and that neither of the two indexes provides references to citations of the 'Shepherd' of Hermas, given that the book contains two essays on this non-canonical text found in the manuscript. There are, however, many helpful photographic figures and tables throughout. [So that's all right then.]

**Four Courts Press:** *Lug's forgotten kingdom: the archaeology, history and folklore of the Sil Lugach of Cloghaneely* [Co. Donegal] (2013, 151 pp, €29.95). Rev. by Liam Ronayne, *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, vol. 141, 2011 [the date of the volumes is always a couple of years behind the reality].

One small complaint about the production of an otherwise very attractive book is that with so many lesser-known personal and place-names in the text, the index could have been more detailed.

**Frances Lincoln:** *The street of wonderful possibilities: Whistler, Wilde & Sargent in Tite Street*, by Devon Cox (2015, 288 pp, £25). Rev. by Susan Owens, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 October 2015.

There should be no reason for the book to contain so many factual inaccuracies, given that reliable accounts of the period can readily enough be found. But avoidable errors are too frequently encountered here. ... The text is further compromised by numerous grammatical slips, which in several instances are so severe as to result in incomprehensible sentences, and endnotes and index alike are patchy and unreliable. Cumulatively, these errors and misunderstandings undermine the book's claim to present an authoritative narrative. The fact that this is a lovely-looking book packed with well-chosen illustrations makes the shortcomings of the text all the more disappointing.

**Peter Lang:** *Ireland and the Czech lands: contacts and comparisons in history and culture*, ed. by Gerald Power and Ondřej Pilný (2013, 243 pp, €53.50). Rev. by Anne O'Leary, *Books Ireland*, May/June 2014.

...there is no specific bibliography added and the index is not good.

## Indexes omitted

**Booklink:** *The Church of Ireland: an illustrated history*, ed. by Claude Costecalde and Brian Walker (2014, 400 pp, €35). Rev. by John Kirkaldy, *Books Ireland*, May/June 2014.

Only one thing mars the whole enterprise: a book of this quality needs an index, and even a better Contents page would help the reader.

**Canongate:** *A notable woman: the romantic journals of Jean Lucey Pratt*, ed. by Simon Garfield (2015, 736 pp, £12.80). Rev. by Mark Bostridge, *Literary Review*, November 2015.

Her diary has, of course, its significance as historical record, and it's a pity for this reason that Garfield hasn't provided an index. [Maybe the publisher, rather than the editor, is to blame.]

**Chronos Books:** *Cromwell was framed: Ireland 1649*, by Tom Reilly (2014, 268 pp, €14.99). Rev. by 'Book Worm', *History Ireland*, September/October 2014.

[Reilly] claims that a belief in Cromwellian atrocities 'is representative of the opinion of the majority of Irish people' (p.14) ... Readers can, of course, make up their own minds (though they would surely have been helped by basic conventions such as citations, a bibliography and an index, none of which are included).

**Clontarf Books:** *From village to suburb: the building of Clontarf since 1760*, by Claire Gogarty (2014, €30). Rev. by Mary Davies, *History Ireland*, March/April 2014.

There are brief endnotes: an index would have been useful.

**History Press:** *The Liberties* [of Dublin]: *a history*, by Maurice Curtis (2013, 255 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Hugh Oram, *Books Ireland*, Summer 2013.

Its notes and bibliography are comprehensive, but an index wouldn't have come amiss. Why do so many publishers simply not bother with an index, when it can often be so essential to a title's integrity?

**Lilliput Press:** *Intimacy with strangers: a life of brief encounters*, by Ciaran Carty (2013, 319 pp, €15). Rev. by Aubrey Malone, *Books Ireland*, September 2013.

Often the inter-connectedness of interviewees is too intricate for its own good. An index might have helped but we don't get one.

**Square Peg:** *That's not English: Britishisms, Americanisms and what our English says about us*, by Erin Moore (2015, 240 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Ann Treneman, *The Times*, 31 October 2015.

I don't remember her covering the word 'rant', beloved by the Brits, although I cannot check because there is no index here, the absence of which is beyond irritating in any language. What's it all about Alfie, I wonder, if you write a book about words but don't help the reader find the damn things? It costs only a few hundred quid to commission an index and it's ridiculous there isn't one here.

**Viking/Penguin:** *Unfaithful music and disappearing ink*, by Elvis Costello (2015, 688 pp, £24). Rev. by Kitty Empire, *The Observer*, 18 October 2015.

There is no index, so anyone active in Costello's timeline – out-of-favour bandmates, mistresses like Bebe Buell, former *Melody*

Maker editors, Ray Charles – wishing to look themselves up will have to work at it. [Ray Charles is hardly likely to want to look himself up, as he died in 2004.]

## Obiter dicta

**Elliott & Thompson:** *Death's summer coat: what the history of death and dying can tell us about life and living*, by Brandy Schillace (2015, 266 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Brian Morton, *The Tablet*, 4 April 2015.

What Schillace doesn't do, apart from a fairly routine look at the charnel houses of the Western Front and the wave of spirit worship that followed, is explore the relationship between death and killing. ... This is a serious gap, as is the one in the index between 'replacement parts' (death banished!) and 'resurrectionists' (i.e. Burke and Hare). As a proper glance at [Paul] Koudounaris' astonishing book [*Memento mori: the dead among us*] would have confirmed, the body is central to the Christian tradition, but Schillace's pound-shop anthropology doesn't allow for even a quick and unsympathetic look at Catholicism and belief in the Resurrection. It's simply ignored.

**Faber:** *A strangeness in my mind*, by Orhan Pamuk, trans. by Ekin Oklap (2015, 352 pp, £20). Rev. by Robert Irwin, *Times Literary Supplement*, 9 October 2015.

*A Strangeness in My Mind* [a novel] covers the four decades between 1969 and 2012.... The military coup of 1980, campaigns against the Kurds in eastern Turkey and the invasion of Cyprus, the rise of Islamism are all on the event horizon of the story of Mevlut and his successive marriages to the two sisters. To help readers find their way through this grand narrative with its various perspectives and profound concerns, the book is provided with an apparatus consisting of a genealogical chart, an index and chronology.

Rev. by Jon Day, *Financial Times*, 18 September 2015.

*A Strangeness in My Mind* – Pamuk's ninth novel and his second since winning the Nobel Prize in 2006 – aspires to cartographic exactitude. It is a big book, bristling with paraphernalia: indexes, character lists and epigraphs.

**Frances Lincoln:** *Oxford college gardens*, by Tim Richardson, with photographs by Andrew Lawson (2015, 320 pp, £40). Rev. by Nicola Shulman, *Times Literary Supplement*, 13 November 2015.

Tim Richardson has organized his [material] as a college-by-college survey, with himself as a superior tour guide. He must suspect this will diminish the likelihood of anyone reading it through, but there is something courteous and self-sacrificial about the decision, as if he knows what his readers want and wishes to spare them the trouble of the index. If you have bought this book because your niece is at Exeter College, you can turn straight to the entry and even look out for her window.

**Penguin:** *Margaret Thatcher, the authorized biography, Vol. 2: Everything she wants*, by Charles Moore (2015, 821 pp, £30). Rev. by Peter Stothard, *Times Literary Supplement*, 13 November 2015.

Little reached Margaret Thatcher without [Lord Armstrong's] knowledge or permission. She heeded him for the most part, and in the index under E for Exclusion (a good guide to reading Moore) he is excluded only, and with difficulty, from a Chequers discussion on how to deal with Gorbachev in 1987. ... Lord Howe of Aberavon ... scores heavily under E for Exclusion in

the index. The quiet Welsh lawyer, with a power of rage more cold than quick, was one of her earliest supporters ... but, as Moore many times makes clear, she never liked him and frequently felt happier when he was away from her. Exclusions include 'from meetings with Gorbachev 623, 630', 'from policy decisions 568, 603, 617', 'from Saudi arms deal 289n, 568'... [It is odd, to say the least, that the reviewer has given such a misleading impression of the index. There is in fact no main heading for 'exclusion' under E. The items cited in the review are all subheadings in the entries for Armstrong and Howe respectively. Index by SI member Christine Shuttleworth.]

**Weidenfeld & Nicolson:** *Accidence will happen: the non-pedantic guide to English usage*, by Oliver Kamm (2015, 304 pp, £12.99). Rev. by N. M. Gwynne, *The Oldie*, May 2015.

In accordance with convention, I open by declaring an interest, in fact three interests. First, I myself am the author of a book on English usage. Secondly, *Accidence Will Happen* almost invariably takes the opposite position to mine. Thirdly, the number of references to me in the index indicates that I am the 'primest' of Mr Kamm's many targets, well ahead of Messrs Heffer and Humphrys, Sir Kingsley Amis, Professor Dummett, the Prince of Wales and many others out at whom – yes, that 'correct' grammar is intended to be funny – he lashes.

[Index by SI member Christopher Phipps.]

## Such odd minds

One school of cookery tries to make as much labour for you and as much show as they can, and the other sets out to show you how to do the best you can with as little labour as possible. You can't combine the two sets of instructions. ... Cooks have such odd minds ... And they all have such bad indexes – I suppose cooks are so used to mixing their materials that they can't help mixing up their pages. [The speaker is the heroine of a novel, *House-Bound*, by Winifred Peck (*Persephone*, 2007, originally published by Faber, 1942).]

## Cows, dignity of

From 1983 to 1996 [Kavanagh] wrote a weekly column for *The Spectator*, and from 1996 to 2002 for the *Times Literary Supplement*. A selection from these made a surprisingly coherent book *A Kind of Journal* (2003). His scope is suggested by entries in the index: 'Deal (Kent), exquisite fishmonger's shop in; Bus, pleasures of; Cows, dignity of; Grass, nature of wetness of; Yeats, W. B., hypochondriacal uncle.'

Obituary of P. J. Kavanagh, *The Daily Telegraph*, 1 September 2015

## Index entry – here today, gone tomorrow

In his memoirs,\* Nott [John Nott, former UK defence secretary] wrote, 'To this day [2002], my good friend Michael Heseltine ... clearly feels that the City conducted a series of manoeuvres to deny the victory to the European consortium. My recollections do not coincide with Michael's but nothing is to be gained from re-engaging in a contest which almost everyone but Michael has forgotten long ago.' On the face of it, these bland words amount to very little. However, an inspection of the index for this page of Nott's book (p. 338) reveals three names – Agnelli, Hanson and Sir James Goldsmith – that do not appear in the text. The explanation is that Nott had given an account of these men's role in the Westland saga but then removed it, at the last minute, fearing that he had libelled them. No one, however, remembered to prune the

index. Nott had indeed implied that the three men in question had planned to form a 'concert party' or something like it. So Heseltine's suspicions were not without foundation.

Charles Moore, *Margaret Thatcher, The authorized biography, Vol. 2: Everything she wants* (Penguin, 2015)

\* John Nott, *Here today, gone tomorrow: recollections of an errant politician* (Politico's, 2002).

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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).*

## Book reviews

**Notebooks, English virtuosi, and early modern science.** Richard Yeo. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2014. 384pp. ISBN: 978-0-22610-656-4 (hbk) US\$45.00.

This book, as Richard Yeo, adjunct professor in the School of Humanities, Griffith University, Australia, writes in his preface, is a contribution 'to the ongoing scholarship in the history of science, the history of the book, and the cultural history of information in early modern Europe' (p. xii). Its main purpose is to investigate the practice of note-taking by English virtuosi. A virtuoso, in a definition from 1656 that Yeo quotes, is simply 'a learned or ingenious person' (p. 7). By the 1660s, 'the leading members of the newly established Royal Society applied the label 'virtuosi' to themselves' (p. 7). The virtuosi Yeo is interested in were men with a broad range of interest, a strong curiosity and vast learning, by the name of (in chronological order; this is also how they appear in the book) Samuel Hartlib (d. 1662), John Beale (1603–1683?), Robert Boyle (1627–1691), John Locke (1632–1704) and Robert Hooke (1635–1703).

Yeo explores three main themes. The first is how these men combined the two cultures of the humanistic tradition and early modern science and the role note-taking had in these two cultures. The virtuosi were on the one hand learned men in the humanistic tradition, and this meant that their note-taking was largely derived from that tradition, namely the art of excerpting: copying parts of what one has read into a notebook and organizing these excerpts with subject headings (common places) for future retrieval. On the other hand, these men were interested in empirical research, and the data of that research needed a place to go as well. Their notebooks thus served two purposes: to record and to provide access to what they had read and what they had observed. As Yeo puts it, their research was at the same time a 'philological and empirical scientific inquiry' (p. xiii) and their notebooks and note-taking techniques needed to reflected that fact.

The second theme in Yeo's book is 'the complex relationship between print and manuscript

cultures' (p. xiii). The role that manuscripts (including notes) played in the advancement of sciences in the early modern period has been neglected, Yeo claims, because the printing press usually gets the credit of being the sole agent of change. This book, in contrast, stresses the role of manuscripts in these intellectual developments.

Third, and most interestingly for indexers, is the 'interplay between individual memory and externalized records in storing and processing of information' (p. xiv) during that time period. Information in the understanding of the virtuosi, as Yeo stresses, comprised 'particular facts, reports, passages in books, or news of certain events obtained from various sources' (p. 70). Yeo explores the techniques and tools these men employed to organize – to store and retrieve – information. Indexing, of course, was a major component of organizing information. Here again the virtuosi could employ and further develop methods of humanist scholarship such as 'common-placing', 'the grouping of quotations, tropes, proverbs, or arguments under appropriate Heads' (p. 14). These heads lead themselves naturally to indexing. Indexing was thus an integral part of scholarly reading, note-taking and information retrieval.

Yeo discusses each of the above-mentioned virtuosi, their note-taking practices and indexing techniques in separate chapters. In the chapter on Hartlib, we find an interesting discussion of the 'Harrisonian Indexes' (pp. 113–23). Hartlib was fascinated by an invention by Thomas Harrison (1595–1649), the 'arca studiorum' (ark of studies). It was based on the idea of using paper slips rather than pages in bound books for notes, thus eliminating the need to think about how much space to reserve for each letter or heading in the blank notebook. Harrison's ark was a wooden cabinet with hooks fixed on the interior walls; the slips of paper containing the notes could simply be hung on these hooks, each hook representing a letter of the alphabet. Hartlib stated that the papers 'can be removed and transposed as one pleases which carries a world of conveniences in it' (p. 116). Hartlib valued the ark because it was simple to rearrange the notes for compositions, making it easier to use them in the writing process.

While Hartlib cared mainly about the flexibility he would gain with Harrison's invention, Harrison himself, according to Yeo, had a different vision: 'Harrison's main concern was not what an author said, but the indexing of core, or simple notions' (p. 121). For Harrison, the ark of studies simply 'removed the need to read a book' (p. 121). Once a book was reduced to core notions and these were captured on slips of paper and found their way into the ark, the book was no longer necessary.

