

Awards roundup

ASAIB Award for the best index (2015–16)

Winner: Dawie Malan for his index to *Selby Myusi: To fly with the North Bird south* by Elza Miles (Pretoria: Unisa Press). Runners-up: Jenny de Wet (*Property law under scrutiny*, edited by Susan Scott and Jeannie van Wyk (Claremont: Juta)) and Clifford Perusset (*The art of public space: curating and re-imagining the ephemeral city* by Kim Gurney (UK: Palgrave Macmillan)).

ANZSI John Simkin Medal 2016

Eight indexes were submitted. Most were competently compiled, and several were of a high standard. One was to a digital publication, and two related to long and complex texts. However, the judges found that the indexes to these longer works suffered from the same flaws as some of the shorter indexes, including incomplete and inconsistent cross-referencing, and missing or incorrect locators. After extensive scrutiny, none of the indexes was judged to

demonstrate the outstanding merit required for the Medal. But Sherrey Quin was highly commended for her index to *Global implications of development, disasters and climate change: responses to displacement from Asia Pacific*, edited by Susanna Price and Jane Singer (Routledge). The index was compact and economical, bringing together complex concepts text comprehensively and concisely. Extensive cross-references served the reader well. (For a full report see the December 2016 *ANZSI Newsletter*: <https://www.anzsi.org/publications-home/newsletters/>).

Institute of Certified Indexers (ICI) 2016 Purple Pen Award

Winner: Sam Arnold-Body for her index to *A thousand cuts: the bizarre underground world of collectors and dealers who saved the movies* by Dennis Bartok and Jeff Joseph (University Press of Mississippi). Sam, who operates Cascade Indexing in the Pacific Northwest, is a former teacher and school librarian, and is active in ASI's Pacific Northwest Chapter (see p. 1).

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: *The handbook for storytellers*, by Judy Freeman and Caroline Feller Bauer (2015, 394 pp, \$68). Rev. by Barbara Band, *CILIP Update*, November 2016.

It is written in two parts with title, author and subject indexes making it searchable and accessible.

Bloomsbury Academic: *Woolf: A guide for the perplexed*, by Kathryn Simpson (2016, 226 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Sarah M. Hall, *Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain Bulletin*, issue 53, September 2016.

Structure and content seem to be slightly at odds: the lengthy sections of running text suggest that the book is intended to be read cover to cover, while it seems likely that readers will want to cherry-pick, depending on which Woolfian aspect or work they find particularly troublesome. In part, this is highlighted in the index, which helpfully lists in bold type pages that explain the subject in depth, but a detailed contents page would have been useful.

Cambridge University Press: *The Cambridge companion to Duke Ellington*, by Edward Green (2015, 320 pp, £17.99). Rev.

by Frank Griffith, *International Review of the Aesthetics and Sociology of Music*, 47(1), June 2016.

The *Companion* is handily introduced with 'Duke Ellington Chronology,' by Associate Editor Evan Spring. ... There is also in this *Companion* a generous bibliography and a comprehensive index. Evan Spring is likewise responsible for these.

Columbia University Press: *Thai stick: surfers, scammers, and the untold story of the marijuana trade*, by Peter Maguire and Mike Ritter (2014, xxxvi + 236 pp, \$27.95, £19.95). Rev. by Boštjan Kravanja, *Asian Ethnology*, 75(1), 2016.

The numerous stories often blur the book's structure. However, the index is of great help for readers who wish to find individual places and subjects of interest.

Miegunyah Press: *Santamaria: a most unusual man*, by Gerard Henderson (2015, v + 505 pp, \$59.95). Rev. by Bruce Duncan, *Labour History* no. 109, November 2015.

... it has an excellent index and extensive bibliography.

Open Book: *The life of August Wilhelm Schlegel: cosmopolitan of art and poetry*, by Roger Paulin (2016, 662 pp, £44.95, pbk £29.95). Rev. by Ritchie Robertson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 9 September 2016.

A welcome feature is an index which also includes the dates when the figures listed were born and died, and basic information about them.

Oxford University Press: *John Nichols's The progresses and public*

processions of Queen Elizabeth I: *a new edition of the early modern sources*, ed. by Elizabeth Goldring, Faith Eales, Elizabeth Clarke and Jayne Elisabeth Archer (5 vols, 2014, 4,064 pp, \$990). Rev. by David M. Bergeron, *Renaissance Quarterly*, 68(2), Summer 2015.

A general index (121 pages) closes [volume 5], which alone might be worth the price of admission to this astounding scholarly accomplishment.

Princeton University Press: *The collected works of Spinoza*, vol II (ed. and trans. by Edwin Curley (2016, 792 pp, £40.95). Rev. by Clare Carlisle, *Times Literary Supplement*, 25 November 2016.

Each text has a substantial editorial preface and well-judged footnotes. The last 200 pages contain a marvellous glossary/index.

St Martin's Press: *God, guns, grits, and gravy*, by Mike Huckabee (2015, 272 pp, £18.67). Rev. by Roy Richard Rogers, *Reviews in History*, www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/2014

There is no bibliography but a useful index is present.

Springer: *The Mediterranean sea: its history and present challenges*, ed. by S. Goffredo and Z. Dubinsky (2014, 678 pp, \$179). Rev. by Charles W. Finkl, *Journal of Coastal Research*, 31(3), May 2015.

I was most pleased to find a comprehensive subject index that spanned 23 pages. Such a complete index adds to the value of the volume as a reference text for researchers.

Syracuse University Press: *Imperial citizen: marriage and citizenship in the Ottoman frontier provinces of Iraq*, by Karen N. Kern (2011, xiv + 200 pp, \$29.95). Rev. by Nancy Beygijanian, *MELA Notes* (Middle East Librarians Association), no. 88, 2015.

Kern has researched well, as is evident in the notes section; her bibliography is full of excellent sources on which a researcher on this topic can rely, and her index is detailed.

Text Publishing: *Mannix*, by Brenda Niall (2015, 439 pp, AU\$50). Rev. by Peter Price, *Labour History*, no. 109, November 2015.

The book is well served by its illustrative plates, by its comprehensive notes, select bibliography and thorough indexing.

Two cheers!

Oxford University Press: *The complete works of John Milton*, vol. III: *The shorter poems*, ed. by Barbara Kiefer Lewalski and Estelle Haan (2012, clxxvi + 632 pp, \$250). Rev. by Peter Herman, *Renaissance Quarterly*, 68(4), Winter 2015.

This book comes with quite a story. After Oxford released *The Complete Works of John Milton: Volume III* in 2012, Paul Hammond reviewed it for *The Seventeenth Century*, and what he found did not make him happy. The book was 'a mess' (Paul Hammond, 'Review: The Complete Works of John Milton: Volume III,' *The Seventeenth Century* 28.2 [2013]: 240). Individual poems were not listed in the table of contents, and the index entry for each item was 'simply a string of undifferentiated page numbers' (Hammond, 239); the annotations at the back were not keyed to the text; Lewalski's notes for the English poems, mainly explaining allusions and repeating 'glosses taken from the OED' (Hammond, 239), were more aimed at beginners and did not show much effort (for instance, of the twenty-nine comments on page 405, twenty-one are OED citations; of the eighteen on page 413, nine are from the OED); the

transcriptions were riddled with errors; and the volume generally was not at all user-friendly. ... At the end of his review, Hammond urged OUP to 'withdraw, correct, and reissue' the book, which they did. The press quietly withdrew the volume. In 2014, Oxford published a 'Corrected Impression,' the volume currently under review. Did Lewalski, Haan, and Oxford University Press fix the problems? The answer is largely yes. While the original, unhelpful index remains, OUP added indexes of titles and first lines, so one no longer has to struggle to find individual poems. ...

Oxford University Press: *The dynamics of spectrum management: legacy, technology, and economics*, by Rohit Prasad and V. Sridhar (2014, 326 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Krishna Jayakar, *Journal of Information Policy*, vol. 5, 2015.

The scholarly apparatus of the book, with a few exceptions, is impeccable. References to a few notable works relevant to the topic are provided at the end of each chapter, along with an extensive bibliography at the end. The ten-page index is comprehensive, though with the acronym- and concept-intensive coverage of the book, there are likely to be a few omissions (e.g., AT&T, blocks, Mirrlees, and MTnL).

Routledge: *Women in the ancient Near East: a sourcebook*, ed. by Mark W. Chavalas (2014, xii + 319 pp, \$47.95). Rev. by Stephen M. Wilson, *Near Eastern Archaeology*, 78(3), September 2015.

Finally, [Martha] Roth's translation and commentary on Mesopotamian legal codes (including, among others, the Laws of Lipit-Ishtar, Hammurabi, Eshnunna, and the Middle Assyrian laws) is a model of clarity, with a helpful index of the codes' terminology preceding the translations.

Considering that the volume is marketed towards students, better effort could have been made from an editorial perspective to provide clarity on often arcane information. In particular, a timeline with entries for each of the book's texts, including the era names frequently used by scholars in the book (e.g., Ur III, Agade Period, etc.), would be helpful. Also needed is an index of Mesopotamian divinities, with brief descriptions.

Springer: *The Pacific Arctic region: ecosystem status and trends in a rapidly changing environment*, ed. by J. M. Grebmeier and W. Maslowski (2014, 450 pp, \$179). Rev. by Charles W. Finkl, *Journal of Coastal Research*, 31(2), March 2015.

A brief index at the end of the book will at least get the interested researcher to the right section.

Indexes censured

Franco Angeli: *Eredità di carta. Biblioteche private e circolazione libraria nella Parma farnesiana (1545-1731)*, by Federica Dallasta (2010, 415 pp, €38). Rev. by Paul F. Gehl, *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, 109(1), March 2015.

The volume is also provided with an extensive but frustratingly incomplete name index. It includes primarily names that appear in the database, that is, the owners of the libraries and the authors of works found in the inventories (though not every mention is included). Other names, including the book dealers and publishers whose stocks are described in some depth, do not appear in the index, nor do some of the women included in the important list of sources in the last chapter. All in all then, this is a significant contribution to the study of reading and book ownership, harder to use than it might ideally be, but well worth consulting.

Archaeopress: *Southeast Asia in the ancient Indian ocean world*, by Tom Hoogervorst (2013, xi + 157 pp, US\$ 77.50). Rev. by Tom Hunter, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, **171**(4), 2015.

My one quibble with the work is that the Index seems rather thin for a work of such density and importance to the field. Perhaps it can be expanded in a future printing.

Council of Science Editors/University of Chicago Press: *Scientific style and format: the CSE manual for authors, editors and publishers*, by Council of Science Editors (8th edn, 2014, 840 pp, \$75). Rev. by Charles Frink, *European Science Editing*, **42**(3), 2016.

Unfortunately, I could not find the updated discussion on fraud and plagiarism mentioned on the sleeve and in the promotional material – and it is not listed in the index or in the section headings ...

I understand that indexing has become something of a lost art in the age of electronic search engines and so-called automatic indexing, but the index in the print edition of *Scientific Style and Format* is rather inadequate for a reference book.

Edward Elgar Publishing: *Dictionary of international human rights law*, by Connie de la Vega (2013, v + 250 pp, \$150). Rev. by Constance A. Johnston, *International Journal of Legal Information*, **43**(1), Spring 2015.

One flaw in this [subject term] section is that it is an alphabetical index with minimal cross-referencing. Related concepts are thus not grouped together. In one instance, the terms ‘Acceptance’ and ‘Accession’ both appear on the first page because they fall there alphabetically. While the entries mention that these are only two of the ways in which a country can become a party to a treaty under the *Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties* and quite usefully distinguish the two terms, there is no link to or mention of the other methods of joining a treaty – approval and ratification. Furthermore, the entry for ‘Approval’ is identical to the one for ‘Acceptance,’ with no explanation of the difference.

Oxford University Press: *Real sadhus sing to God: gender, asceticism, and vernacular religion in Rajasthan*, by Antoinette Elizabeth DeNapoli (2014, xii + 369 pp, £64). Rev. by Hanna H. Kim, *Asian Ethnology*, **75**(1), 2016.

... n.b. there is no glossary and only a minimal index with Sanskrit and Hindi words.

Routledge: *Religion, pilgrimage, and tourism*, by Alex Norman and Carole M. Cusack (4 vols, 2015, 1618 pp, \$1,345). Rev. by Frank J. Korom, *Asian Ethnology*, **75**(1), 2016.

The fourth volume closes with a nineteen-page index that seems rather superficial. Given that the set runs over 1,500 pages, one would have hoped that with such a huge endeavor more care would have been taken to generate an exhaustive index that would have truly made this set a valuable reference. [*Generate?*]

Rowman & Littlefield: *Twilight of the Belle Epoque: the Paris of Picasso, Stravinsky, Proust, Renault, Marie Curie, Gertrude Stein, and their friends*, by Mary Sperling McAuliffe (2014, 432 pp, £18.95). Rev. by Charles Sowerwine, *Reviews in History*, www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/2006

The sad story of Ravel’s decline as a result of his war experience and his mother’s death could, however, be treated more clearly. ‘Ravel

wrote some of his most intimate letters to his wartime godmother, Madame Dreyfus’ (p. 322). ‘Wartime godmother’ misleads as a translation of *marraine de guerre*. ‘Wartime godmothers’ were volunteer pen pals to help soldiers maintain their morale. And by failing to name Madame Dreyfus, McAuliffe opens the possibility of confusion with the wife of Captain Alfred Dreyfus; Ravel’s *marraine de guerre* was Mme Fernand Dreyfus, who unfortunately doesn’t rate an entry in the index The book is well-presented, with copious and useful end-notes and a full bibliography. It wants only better quality reproduction of the illustrations and a better index. Perhaps Rowman & Littlefield, emboldened by this success, will produce the boxed three-volume edition of which I dream, enhanced by a complete, cumulative index and a portfolio of properly reproduced plates.

Indexes omitted

Association of College and Research Libraries: *Difficult decisions: closing and merging academic libraries*, ed. by Sara Holder and Amber Butler Lannon (2015, x + 253 pp, \$58). Rev. by Cara Clarke, *CILIP Update*, November 2016.

The book lacks an index, so flicking through to find sections relating to specific topics is tricky.

Austrian Academy of Science and Pontificia Universidad de Chile: *Reservas de la biosfera de Chile – Laboratorios para la sustentabilidad*, by Andrés Moreira-Muñoz and Axel Borsdorf (2014, xvii + 321 pp, €30, free download at www.mountainresearch.at/index.php/de/institut/veroeffentlichungen/79-institut/344-reservas-de-la-biosferadechile.html). Rev. by Martin F. Price, *Mountain Research and Development*, **35**(3), August 2015.

Thus, each of these chapters can be principally regarded as a useful and attractive introduction to a specific biosphere reserve accompanied by a set of references to published research. However, comparison between the chapters is not easy and is further hindered by the lack of an index.

Dublin City Council/Four Courts Press/University College Dublin: *More than concrete blocks: Dublin city’s twentieth-century buildings and their stories, vol. I: 1900-40*, ed. by Ellen Rowley (€22.45). Rev. by Mary Davies, *History Ireland*, November–December 2016.

There is an extensive bibliography. But could we please have an index in subsequent volumes? Or, if not a full index, at least one of architects and builders?

Merlin Press: *Eugene Debs reader: Socialism and the class struggle*, by William A. Pelz (2014, 247 pp, AU\$25). Rev. by Marie Plassart, *Labour History*, no. 109, November 2015.

On the whole, the editorial choice of not introducing the articles makes it a challenge for beginners in the study of socialism. Finally, an index would have made this Eugene V. Debs reader more accessible and more useful to researchers.

Martinus Nijhoff: *Legislating for equality: a multinational collection of non-discrimination norms, vol. I: Europe*, ed. by Talia Naamat, Nina Osin and Dina Porat (2012, v + 552 pp, \$240). Rev. by Mary Rumsey, *International Journal of Legal Information*, **42**(3), Summer 2014.

Although a second purpose of the volume is to enable comparative work, the lack of a detailed table of contents, and of any index whatsoever, will prove a great hindrance to such work. The table of contents merely lists the countries included. A researcher attempting to compare provisions relating to discrimination in education, for instance, will have to look through each country's section individually.

Otago University Press: *Journals 1938–1945*, by Charles Brasch (2013). Rev. by John Newton, *Journal of New Zealand Literature*, no. 33, 2015.

At just shy of six hundred and fifty pages it's a lavish volume, and a huge amount of work has gone into it. Margaret Scott did the original transcription, and Andrew Parsloe has supplied the annotations as well as a sixty-five-page schedule of 'dramatis personae'. The latter, which furnishes salient details about no fewer than two hundred and eighty-nine people to whom Brasch makes reference, in itself represents a painstaking work of scholarship and provides such a serviceable navigation tool that in the end it's probably a fair trade for the lack of a subject index. [Hmmm.]

Springer: *The Andes: a geographical portrait*, by Axel Borsdorf and Christoph Stadel, trans. by Brigitte Scott and Christoph Stadel (2015, xiv + 368 pp, US\$ 139). Rev. by Anthony Bebbington and Anna Bebbington, *Mountain Research and Development*, 36(2), May 2016.

The glossary of terms and reference list at the end of the book are helpful and comprehensive. However, the absence of an index is frustrating and means that the only way to explore the book is through the headings and subheadings of the contents pages.

Springer: *The Carpathians: integrating nature and society towards sustainability*, by Jacek Kozak, Katarzyna Ostapowicz, Andrzej Bytnerowicz, and Bartłomiej Wyga (2013, vi + 717 pp, US\$129, €103.99). Rev. by Martin F. Price, *Mountain Research and Development*, 35(3), August 2015.

In addition, given the range of topics included in the book, an index would have been very useful.

Third Age Press: *On the tip of your tongue: your memory in later life*, by Dr H. B. Gibson (e-book £5.49, PDF £5). Rev. by Errol Murphy, *Third Age Matters*, autumn 2016.

This is more of a self-help book than an academic treatise (there is no index or source referencing), so it stands or falls on its usefulness.

University of Chicago Press: *A very queer family indeed: sex, religion and the Bensons in Victorian Britain*, by Simon Goldhill (344 pp, £24.50). Rev. by Philip Hensher, *Spectator*, 12 November 2016.

And there is no index, which, considering this is a very involved argument about several extremely active writers and personalities, seriously damages the book's usefulness.

Verloren: *Family life onder de VOC. Een handelscompagnie in huwelijks- en gezinszaken*, by Carla van Wamelen (2014, 592 pp, €49). Rev. by Harry A. Poeze, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, 171(4), 2015.

This certainly will become the reference book on the subject. In that respect it is a pity that only a personal index is included – a more useful subject index is sadly missed.

Obiter dicta

Heinemann: *A stain in the blood: the remarkable voyage of Sir Kenelm Digby*. by Joe Moshenska (2016, 576 pp, £20). Rev. in *The Oldie Review of Books*, Autumn 2016.

'Sir Kenelm Digby,' admitted Michael Prodger in the *Times*, 'is one of those historical figures who features less as the hero of his own story than as a fixture in the indexes of other, more famous names. ...'

Les Impressions Nouvelles: *L'accent français de la prose anglaise*, by Gilles Philippe (2016, 256 pp, €20). Rev. by Daniel Karlin, *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 November 2016.

Philippe is well-read in both the primary and secondary literature, his own translations from English are accomplished, and he makes few mistakes in an area where you might forgive many more (I certainly forgive him, or his printer, for inventing the portmanteau word 'shrudder' on page 106, but Colm Tóibín shouldn't appear as 'Tóinbin', as he does both on page 131 and in the index, even if he is also complimented for his 'beau roman' *The Master*). Unfortunately, although Philippe writes with – well, with style, let us say – he is too fond of his own turns of phrase, too apt to glance in the mirror and nod approval, and he gives grounds for confirming one of the oldest of John Bull's stereotypes of the French, their vanity. *Je* may be *un autre*, but Philippe is continuously, flagrantly, and in the end exasperatingly, self-referring. (Literally so: he cites himself fifteen times in his footnotes, far more than any other critic, and the fact that he excludes himself from the index seems less an act of modesty than of prudence.) He very nearly spoils a very good book – for this *hypocrite lecteur*, at least. [*But was it the author who prepared the index?*]

Profile: *Boots on the ground: Britain and her army since 1945*, by Richard Dannatt (General Lord Dannatt) (391 pp, £25). Rev. by Allan Mallinson, *The Spectator*, 12 November 2016.

One reviewer has said that it is not part of Dannatt's 'caste or creed to criticise the military leaders who were complicit in Blair's wars' (or, he might have added, complicit in wrecking much of the institution under discussion). The clues may be in the index, however. Of the Chief of the Defence Staff at the time of the Iraq invasion, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, there is nothing. Of the two who followed Boyce during the chaotic occupation of Basra and the adventure into Helmand, General Sir Michael Walker and Air Chief Marshal Sir Graham Stirrup, there is likewise nothing at all. Perhaps corrections will indeed be made in subsequent editions.

Unicorn: *The art of John Piper*, by David Fraser Jenkins and Hugh Fowler-Wright (2016, 500 pp, £40). Rev. by Ruth Guilding, *Times Literary Supplement*, 21 October 2016.

In 1942 Piper had published *British Romantic Artists* (1942), a work made in collaboration with [Geoffrey] Grigson who was simultaneously collecting material for his own anthology, *The Romantics*, which he dedicated to Piper. Grigson had introduced Piper to the work of Samuel Palmer, and as Fraser Jenkins points out, they drew on the same inspirations. 'Grigson compiled an index of every mention of the moon in Milton, and Piper habitually drew the moon over his ruined cottages, in homage to Palmer.'

Books on the march

In the tenth century, Abdul Kassam Ismael, Grand Vizier of Persia, carried his library with him wherever he went in order that

he should always feel at home. Since he owned 117,000 titles, this required the services of 400 camels trained to march in (of course) alphabetical order.

Andrew Taylor, 'Grub Street', *The Author*, Spring 2016

Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:

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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

But can I start a sentence with "But"? University of Chicago editorial staff. Chicago, Ill. and London: University of Chicago Press, 2016. 118 pp. ISBN 978-0-226-37064-4 \$15.00.

This reviewer is an avid reader of the *Chicago manual's* monthly online Q&A. Their book is a delightful and worthwhile compilation of selected questions and replies.

Like the monthly Q &As, you can read it randomly, in sequential order, or by looking at the index, which is, not surprisingly, thorough and well crafted. From Abbreviations to Zombies, it's got it all. The chapters are arranged in categories that reflect the Browse Q&A page on *CMOS Online*. The whimsical chapter titles, such as 'Holy metaphysics—we aren't that fancy' belie a cogent categorization of related topics. Commas get their own topic category.

In the days of voice-activated devices, Twitter, autocaptioning, and rampant misspellings, it is a welcome diversion to read writing that not only follows discipline as outlined in *The Chicago manual of style*, but also explains that discipline in a wry, entertaining manner. Favorite responses are to those questioners who are too lazy or distracted to look it up. The answers cite chapter and verse from *The Chicago manual*, and can be refreshingly snarky and smart. Just two delicious examples:

Q: My staff and I encountered a phrase and there is a bit of debate on how to hyphenate it: Wall Street darling-ready. Some believe an en-dash should be inserted between Street and darling, followed by a hyphen between darling and ready. Others, however, feel the addition of the en-dash would make the phrase even more difficult to interpret for readers. Thoughts?

A: I'm sorry, but the phrase looks like nonsense; I don't think you can save it by tacking on hyphens or dashes. Please rewrite the sentence and—as they say—murder your darling.

Q: Can I use the first person?

A: Evidently.

This book is a wonderful read with all the fun of a literary joke book and packed with usable information. This reviewer, an academic press indexer, found much worth retaining, not even

counting the five subentries under Indexing in the index. And yes, you can start a sentence with 'But'.

Eileen Quam, MLIS, Finedex Indexing Services

The subversive copy editor: advice from Chicago (or, how to negotiate good relationships with your writers, your colleagues, and yourself), 2nd edn. Carol Fisher Saller. Chicago, Ill. and London: University of Chicago Press, 2016. 206pp. ISBN: 978-0-226-24007-7 (pbk) US\$15.00.

Carol Fisher Saller has updated her helpful and highly entertaining work, offering letters to and responses from her blog which bookend each chapter, on effective usage of both the *Chicago manual of style* and the English language itself. Readers of *The Indexer* may remember that Saller was the keynote speaker at the 2009 ASI Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon, and that the first edition of this book was reviewed here in 2010 by Michael E. Jackson. This second edition retains the humor, which Michael rightly extolled as 'more Judi Dench/Geoffrey Palmer ... than the average stand-up comedian.' It is indeed rare for me to chuckle aloud while reading anything, and Saller delivers unexpected wit without ever being cloying or too cute. Moreover, this edition has two new chapters, and expands upon Chapter 6 ('Dear Writers'). Far from being a tangential work to the profession of indexing, this is an essential and relevant read for anyone who indexes, writes, and/or communicates with clients.

First, let's examine the two new chapters. Chapter 5, entitled 'The misguided martyr; or, laying down your life for the serial comma,' is sufficient by itself to recommend this book, for it corrects many a misunderstanding of 'proper' grammar. Much of what is taken for grammar is style, and style is subjective. The point, Saller reminds us, is to serve the readers – not one's superior, nor the company style guide, nor even the *Chicago manual* itself.

'When,' laments Saller, 'did we get the idea that English is so rigid a language that there is only one correct way to say something?' Indeed, her examples make us see the absurdity of our over-carefulness, a malady that is apparently epidemic. With practical tidbits she pries away our fear of committing some imaginary literary sin, which she terms assertionism, and helps us avoid blind adherence to 'skunked' (outdated) rules and 'foolish consistency,'

