

of indexing practices or skills. In fact, in most cases, the indexes presented were written by authors or others without any indexing expertise. The definition of 'book indexing' was loosely applied. Documents discussed included 19th-century periodicals, medieval theological chronicles, modern philosophical works, 16th-century travel writing, and poetry. Most of the papers were about English language publications; however, there were papers on the problems of indexing Chinese writing and on early German legal commentaries.

I found it disconcerting to attend this symposium as a professional book indexer, particularly after attending the SI conference. Because it immediately followed the SI conference, there were many indexers in attendance. In fact, without the indexers, it would have been a very small event! While the papers presented provided various levels of enlightenment about historical documents that contained indexes, there was very little attempt to place them into a larger narrative about the development of indexes and indexing generally.

The organizers of the symposium intend to publish the papers presented in a combined volume of proceedings. Hopefully, some attempt will be made in that publica-

tion to bring this diverse collection of information about historical indexes 'out of the trees and into the forest'. Or, perhaps, it is up to professional indexers to take the information provided in academic conferences of this type and create knowledge that will benefit them in current or future indexing practices? I talked with several indexers at the symposium who were interested in building bridges with the scholars present and attending similar events in the future. Hopefully, the feeling is mutual.

I could not help but wonder, as I listened to talks on centuries-old indexes, what future generations will be saying about the indexes that we are writing today. Will the book index be simply an ancient artefact by then or will the brave new world of ebooks take the index in new directions? Either way, it seems like a good time for us to reflect on and learn from the history of the book index, and I hope that indexers and academics will gather together again to do this.

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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

ALA Neal-Schuman: *Running a small library: a how-to-do-it manual for librarians*, ed. by John A. Moorman (2015, 272 pp, £73.95). Rev. by Margaret I. Katny, *CILIP Update*, June 2017.

There are plenty of references, suggestions for further reading, an excellent index as well as an extensive source-book covering all aspects of running a small library.

Hong Kong University Press: *Merchants of Canton and Macao: success and failure in eighteenth-century Chinese trade*, by Paul A. Van Dyke (2016, xlvii + 443 pp, US\$79/£59). Rev. by Jonathan Goldstein, *International Journal of Maritime History*, 29(3).

The entire volume is superbly indexed.

Hurst Publishers: *The turbulent world of Middle East soccer*, by James M. Dorsey (2016, 359pp, £15.99). Rev. by Richard J. Peltz-Steele, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 1–4.

With respect to the story of *Turbulent World*, the thorough narrative sometimes outpaces its own organization, and the reader can lose orientation amid jumbles of unfamiliar events. Possibly in anticipation of this problem, the book is complemented by a comprehensive

chronology at its front. There also is a comprehensive index, and lengthier entries, especially country names, are broken down by calendar year. These supplements, labour intensive to create, substantially enhance the book's value as a reference tool.

Legenda: *Saturn's moons: W. G. Sebald – a handbook*, ed. by Jo Catling and Richard Hibbitt (2011, xv + 677 pp, £45.00).

[See the entry for this book, whose index is incidentally praised, under 'Indexes censured', below.]

Lynx Edicions: *HBW and BirdLife International illustrated checklist of the birds of the world, vol 2: Passerines*, by David A. Christie et al. (2016, 1013 pp, £205). Rev. by Peter Lack, *BTO News*, issue 323, Summer 2017.

... every species is both illustrated and has a distribution map. Both of these have been carefully updated as necessary from the original HBW volumes and there are nearly 650 completely new illustrations as well as revisions of about 10% of the others. The authors also justify and summarise their taxonomic decisions. The book is completed with 2,740 references and 67 pages of a comprehensive index.

The price is quite high but if you want a world checklist and an impressive book which contains an enormous amount of information then it is probably worth it.

MIT Press: *Drawing physics: 2,600 years of discovery from Thales to Higgs*, by Don S. Lemons (2017, 246 pp, \$27). Rev. by Celestia Ward, *Skeptical Inquirer*, September/October 2017.

Readers will find the notes section useful but unobtrusive, and the book benefits from a well-prepared index....

Oxbow Books: *Ireland's first settlers: Time and the Mesolithic*, by Peter Woodman (2015, 448 pp, £50). Rev. by George Nash, *Current Archaeology*, 330, September 2017.

The book is constructed of 12 well-crafted chapters with a bibliography and that all-important index. Not surprisingly, the standard of publication – by Oxbow Books – is exceptionally high.

Oxford University Press: *Graeco-Egyptian interactions: literature, translation, and culture 500 BC–AD 300*, ed. by Ian Rutherford. Oxford (2016, xiii + 393 pp, £80). Rev. by Ivana Petrovic, *Greece & Rome*, 64(1), April 2017.

Literature, translation, and culture are chosen as focal points of the volume's fourteen chapters, nested between a meaty introduction and a well-organized index.

Oxford University Press: *The Oxford handbook of European history 1914–1945*, ed. by Nicholas Doumanis (2016, 672 pp, £95). Rev. by Charlotte Faucher, *Journal of Contemporary History*, 52(3).

... the volume ends with a thorough index that will facilitate cross-referencing for its readers.

Routledge: *Alan S. Milward and contemporary European history: collected academic reviews*, ed. by Fernando Guirao and Frances M. B. Lynch (2015, xviii + 593 pp, £168). Rev. by James F. Siekmeier, *Journal of Contemporary History*, 52(3).

This book will be enlightening to any students or scholars seeking a more complete understanding of Milward's work. Given the breadth of topics with which Milward engages in his reviews, it is likely that readers will dip in and out to read the reviews most relevant for their purposes (facilitated by a detailed index).

University of Ottawa Press: *Tolstoy and Tolstaya: a portrait of a life in letters*, ed. by Andrew Donskov (2017, 415 pp, £48). Rev. by Anna A. Berman, *Literary Review of Canada*, June 2017.

The volume also includes a wealth of contextualizing information – from detailed family trees and a list of Russian geographical names to a lengthy introduction by the editor, photographs of the Tolstoy family, a chronology and detailed index. The editors have done everything they can to make the book both broadly accessible and also of interest to experts. It succeeds in both of these tasks.

Two cheers!

Pegasus/Serpent's Tail: *Vulgar tongues: an alternative history of English slang*, by Max Décharné (2016, 388 pp, £13.48). Rev. by Peter Sokolowski, *New York Times*, 27 August 2017.

... dictionaries of slang, jargon, and cant vocabulary ... [are] explored [in this book] ... An index of the words discussed would be useful.

Rev. by [SI President] Sam Leith, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 June 2017.

Décharné's approach is not so much systematic as meandering, proceeding from lexeme to lexeme according to a rough associative logic and admitting of all sorts of whimsical digressions. His erudition and amiability are what holds it all together. There's a big and decent index – though it covers the body text rather than the lexemes themselves, which is occasionally frustrating. That said, the book would be nearly half index if it were exhaustive that way.

Indexes censured

Allen Lane: *The enemy within: a tale of Muslim Britain*, by Sayeeda Warsi (2017, 416 pp, £20 hb, £9.99 ebk). Rev. by Sameer Rahim, *Daily Telegraph*, April 2017.

The text is also littered with typos: the index lists both 'Anjum Choudry' and 'Andy Chowdry' for ISIL-backing bigmouth Anjem Choudary.

Bloomsbury Academic: *Women's life in Greece and Rome: a source book in translation*, by Mary R. Lefkowitz and Maureen Fant (2016, xxxiv + 457 pp, £28.99). Rev. by Kostas Vlassopoulos, *Greece & Rome*, 64(1), April 2017.

The format betrays its origins in the 1970s, with seemingly natural divisions, such as women in public and in private life, or women's voices and men's opinions. Class and gender formation as processes are absent as organizing categories: slavery is pretty much everywhere in the sources, but is practically invisible either in the list of contents or in the index.

Cambridge Military Histories: *Anatomy of a campaign: the British fiasco in Normandy, 1940*, by John Kiszely (2017, 390 pp, £34.99). Rev. by Allan Mallinson, *Spectator*, 8 July 2017.

Anyone wanting to know about the pitfalls of pol-mil decision-making and campaign-planning, but who does not have the stomach to read Chilcot, should read Kiszely. However, the author deserved a better indexer; and at £35 bar a penny, so does the reader.

CSIRO Publishing: *The Australian bird guide*, by Peter Menkhorst, Danny Rogers and Rohan Clarke (2017, 576 pages, \$49.99). Rev. by Sean Dooley, *The Age*, 28 July 2017.

Similarly, there is not much joy to be had in the index for the beginner birder. If you suspect a bird might be a honeyeater, you will not find guidance there as each of the 75 members of the honeyeater family is listed separately under its full name. Much better to consult the quick reference pictorial on the front flyleaf to visually gauge what category of bird yours may belong to – it will save you flicking through all 500-odd pages to find a bird that looks like what you have seen.

Legenda: *Saturn's moons: W. G. Sebald – a handbook*, ed. by Jo Catling and Richard Hibbitt (2011, xv + 677 pp, £45.00), and: *J. B. Metzler: W. G. Sebald-Handbuch: Leben-Werk-Wirkung*, ed. by Claudia Öhlschläger and Michael Niehaus (2017, 333 pp, €89.95). Rev. by Richard Sheppard, *Journal of European Studies*, 47(3).

Nearly 16 years after Sebald's tragic death, Germanists now have two memorials in the shape of Handbooks at their disposal. The one in English, which I prefer to call a miscellany, appeared in 2011 under the sign of the astronomers' 'gas giant', and the one in German, whose title I shall italicize, has been produced in conformity with Metzler's structural triad of 'Leben–Werk–Wirkung' (Life–Work–Impact/Reception) (p. viii). So although the two Handbooks overlap to some extent, they differ in several important respects

Then again, by its very nature a good Handbook should have a detailed index so that readers with specific interests can use it more quickly. But the *Handbuch* has no such index, merely a 'Personenregister' (index of names) that occupies a mere four pages (pp. 330–3) – though given the reluctance of some German academic

publishers to provide any kind of index, one should not grumble. In contrast, the miscellany's 'General index' extends over 15 pages (pp. 662–77), and unlike the 'Personenregister', which has many strange gaps, points the reader not only to real 'Personen' whose names occur in footnotes as well as the main body of the text, but also to buildings, locations, institutions, historical events and the titles of films, magazines and works of prose fiction, etc.

Oxford University Press: *A history of modern political thought in East Central Europe: vol I: Negotiating modernity in the 'long nineteenth century'*, by Balázs Trencsényi et al (2016, 704 pp, £85). Rev. by Miroslav Šedivý, *European History Quarterly*, 47(3).

With its academic qualities, readable style and well-organized content, this book is a valuable source of information and inspiration for both scholars and students of history and political science. It would be even more useful if the index were better compiled: the listing of individuals mentioned in the book is inconsistent. Some people are not listed at all, like Kotzebue (133) and Guizot (215), in other cases reference is not made to all the pages on which they are mentioned, for example Taine (318) and Tocqueville (215). However, this is but a very minor defect in an otherwise splendid work.

Richard Boorberg Verlag: *Interventionen: Literaturkritik als Widerspruch bei W. G. Sebald*, by Uwe Schütte (2014, 651 pp, €45). Rev. by Richard Sheppard, *Journal of European Studies*, 47(3).

It was also very frustrating – as is so often the case with German academic books – to have to work with an index that is limited to the names of persons (pp. 641–51) when a more comprehensive listing would have made the text more accessible and easier to read.

Indexes omitted

Elsengold Verlag: *Tempo! Berliner Verkehrsgeschichte [Tempo! Berlin transport history]*, by Jan Gympel (2015, 208 pp, €29.95). Rev. by Hasso Spode, *Journal of Transport History*, 0(0), 1–2.

This history is well researched, written professionally and illustrated brilliantly. Admittedly, it lacks footnotes and an index, and more than once I got the feeling that the author knows more than he was allowed to include. Nonetheless, this sort of coffee-table book provides for interesting reading and invites readers to scroll through the pages. Moreover, since the 'facts' were gathered so thoroughly and presented so colourfully, Gympel's overview may serve well as a textbook for secondary schools and proseminars.

Fitzcarraldo: *This young monster*, by Charlie Fox (2017, 280 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Phil Baker, *Times Literary Supplement*, 12 May 2017.

An index would have been useful.

Herder-Institut für Ostmitteleuropaforschung: *Wrocław/Breslau*, by Grzegorz Strauchold and Rafał Eysymontt (2016, 80 pp, €40). Rev. by Tomasz Kamusella, *European History Quarterly*, 47(3).

Inexplicably, there is no comprehensive index of place-names, an essential feature for pairing up different historic and linguistic versions of toponyms.

Historic Environment Scotland: *Calanais: survey and excavation 1979–88*, by P. J. Ashmore (2016, 1241 pp). Rev. by Timothy Darvill, *Cambridge Core*, <http://antiquity.ac.uk>, 91(357).

Available only as a free downloadable pdf, much of the traditional apparatus of academic publishing, such as lists of figures and tables, has been dispensed with; there is no index as you can search for any word or phrase on screen (but not, of course, when using a print-out.)

History Press (Pocket Giants series): *Julius Caesar*, by T. P. Wiseman (2016, 128 pp, £6.99). Rev. by Robert Shorrock, *Greece & Rome*, 64(1), April 2017.

Although some may lament the lack of an index, this is a book that stands on its own feet without one, a book to consume in a single serving, designed as a springboard to the further reading and digital resources set out in the final three pages.

Pegasus: *Browsings – a year of reading, collecting, and living with books*, by Michael Dirda (2016, 256 pp, £7). Rev. by Jill Bemison, www.amazon.com, 16 June 2016,

Dirda mentions many books but fail[s] to provide either an index or list of book[s] mentioned.

Pegasus: *Vulgar tongues: an alternative history of English slang*, by Max Décharné (2016, 388 pp, £13.48). Rev. by Peter Sokolowski, *New York Times*, 27 August 2017.

... dictionaries of slang, jargon, and cant vocabulary ... [are] explored [in this book] An index of the words discussed would be useful.

Södertörn University: *Urbanism under sail: an archaeology of fluit ships in early modern everyday life*, by Niklas Eriksson (2014, 231 pp, £19.99, or available for free download). Rev. by Ian Friel, *International Journal of Maritime History*, 29(3).

One practical drawback is that there is no index, but its English is clear, with the occasional infelicity.

University of Toronto Press: *Growing urban economies: innovation, creativity, and governance in Canadian city-regions*, by D. A. Wolfe and M. S. Gertler (2016, 432 pp, £22.99). Rev. by Gordon F. Mulligan, *Economic Development Quarterly*, 31(3).

Another shortcoming of the volume is the complete absence of either a subject or author index.

Obiter dicta

Quiller: *The enigma of Kidson: the portrait of an Eton schoolmaster*, by Jamie Blackett (2017, 335 pp, £25). Rev. by Carey Schofield, *Spectator*, 8 July 2017.

The Enigma is full of stories of [M. G.] Kidson's theatricality. His insults were legendary, but his pupils seem to have understood the histrionics and loved him for them. Many recall him hurling half a croquet ball or a board-rubber at them ('Kidson, Michael: choice of missiles' is an index entry).

Sage: *Weathered: cultures of climate*, by Mike Hulme (2017, xvi + 178 pp, £65/£22.99). Rev. by Marcus A. Doel, *The Holocene*, 1–2.

The blurb for Mike Hulme's *Weathered: Cultures of Climate* says that it 'opens up the many ways in which the idea of climate is given shape and meaning in different human cultures – how climates are historicised, known, changed, lived with, blamed, feared, represented, predicted, governed and ... re-designed'. This climatic multitude is evident in the book's index, which runs from 'acclimatisation routines' and 'Acts of God' to 'Weapons of Mass Destruction' and 'World Meteorological Organization'.

Neatly folded

Adam Smyth touches on watermarks without mentioning their use as date-stamps, which sometimes have their own stories to tell (LRB, 15 June). My first purchase of an antique medical text was *The Practice of Physick In two Volums* [sic] *Very much Enlarged* (1658). The authors (Riverius, Culpeper and Cole) claim to offer knowledge of the causes and cures of all the diseases of man, and the work is intended for use in situations where a physician may not be at hand. The book is essentially a rehash and 'improvement' of Galen's classic work of late antiquity with much astrology thrown in. There is no hint of Harvey's discovery in 1628 of the circulation of the blood. When I got the book home and examined it more carefully, I discovered some neatly folded sheets laid in at the back. They comprised a detailed index, written in an elegant hand. On one of them, I found the date watermarked: 1828. At first I was astonished to think that medicine had progressed so little, at least in the popular mind, in 170 years, that this tedious indexing should seem worthwhile. But then I realised that this was still a time in which, for the general public, the more venerable its provenance, the more credible the opinion. And for an ill-educated populace the significance of work such as Harvey's, even after two hundred years, was not evident. Perhaps I should not have been so surprised in the first place. My father, by no means ill-educated, desperate in the 1940s for relief from rheumatic pain, had resorted, in vain, to herbal remedies I've since found prescribed for the same problem in *The Practice of Physick*.

Raymond Clayton, letter, *London Review of Books*, 13 July 2017

Oh, my darling Clementine

She [Clementine Churchill] has been largely forgotten in the annals of history. Winston, whose tome *The Second World War* has influenced many scholars' subsequent understanding of that conflict, must shoulder some of the blame. He refers to her in volume 2 just once, and we find her in the index only as 'Churchill, Mrs.'

Sonia Purnell, *Clementine* (Penguin, 2016)

Intellectual honesty

All this sent me on a search for the origin of the term 'intellectual honesty' and its cognates, feeling as I did that some understanding of its origin might illuminate its relevance or usefulness. I thought the term would date from the 1960s or 70s. It is in fact much older, as I should have guessed. The earliest instance I found appears in the index of the *Edinburgh Review* for 1830: 'Defoe, Daniel ... peculiarity of his intellectual honesty'. Alas, although it's in the index, the essay referenced doesn't contain the term. The concept is there, though: 'He was a distinguished polemic, rather than a philosopher. Though he exercised his understanding powerfully and variously, yet it was always under the guidance of a certain banner – in support of "a foregone conclusion". He was too much in the heat of the battle – too constantly occupied in attacking or

defending one side or the other, to consider fairly whether both might not be in the wrong'.

Barton Swaim, 'Intellectual honesty', *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 August 2017.

Boarding-school life unearthed

As I turned the pages and bits of boarding-school life were unearthed piecemeal, like the skeleton of some fantastic and once-common beast, I began to imagine what an index would look like:

Bath cube, 25, 72; as love tribute, 110

Books (and periodicals): discouraged, 87–8; restricted, 142; confiscated if discovered, 73; pages of, as supplement to blankets in winter, 59; new, as a metaphor for virginity, 97; worn and dog-eared, as a metaphor for sexual experience, 97; school library, pages of, taped together as a means of censorship, 143

Bosoms: mistresses', 27; as defining feature, 27–8; names for, 28; and cardigans, 36

Nicola Shulman, preface to Ysenda Maxtone-Graham, *Terms and conditions: life in girls' boarding schools, 1939–1979* (Slightly Foxed, 2016)

[So why isn't there such an index to this entertaining book? Ms Shulman would appear to be the ideal person to prepare it – although her alphabetization needs attention.]

Omission accomplished

Sam Leith's quick romp through indexes (Diary, 1 July) reminds me of the best entry I have come across. Between 'Falklands War, 314, 316,' and 'Fayed, Mohamed Al, 154, 235', Andrew Marr's short history of British journalism, *My Trade*, contains the following: 'Fallon, Ivan, triumphant and brave journalistic career of, unaccountably not mentioned'.

Mark Davies, Letters, *Spectator*, 8 July 2017

Last word

If you're looking for the index, there isn't one. Deliberately. Read the bloody book!

Arron Banks, *The bad boys of Brexit: tales of mischief, mayhem and guerrilla warfare in the EU referendum campaign* (Biteback, 2016)

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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).