

# 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.

## Indexes praised

**Peter Lang:** *'Slight return': Paul Muldoon's poetics of place*, by Anne Karhio (1986, 261 pp, €49.40). Rev. by Anne O'Leary, *Books Ireland*, January/February 2018.

A good bibliography and index make it easily negotiable.

**Sidestone Press:** *Verre fort en, vreemde kusten: Nederlandse verdedigingswerken overzee*, ed. by Kees Ampt, Ad Littel, and Edwin Paar (2017, 408 pp, €34.95). Rev. by Harry A. Poeze, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, 174(1), 2018.

Along with notes, bibliography, glossary, English summaries and index it results in an exemplary book.

**Viking:** *Victorious century: the United Kingdom, 1800–1906*, by David Cannadine (624 pp, \$40). Rev. by Paul Kennedy, *American Scholar*, Spring 2018.

Rare is the book with an index that deserves praise. But this one, by Dave Craddock, goes beyond a mere alphabetical listing of persons and places. It is a thematic index, with, for example, an entry for Ireland that has dozens of subheadings, such as 'Protestant Unionism,' 'racist attitudes towards,' 'Irish Land Acts,' and so on.

## Two cheers!

**Fortress Press:** *Indexes and supplementary materials: Dietrich Bonhoeffer works, vol. 17*, ed. by Victoria Barnett, Barbara Wojhoski and Mark Brocker (2014, xii + 622 pp, \$75). Rev. by David S. Robinson, *Expository Times*, 129(7), 2018.

In comparison to the German index volume (published in 1999 by Chr. Kaiser Verlag) on which it is based, the English edition turns dramatically to biographical interests. A detailed, nearly 60-page chronology has been added, while the index of names has been expanded to more than three times the size (now over 280 pages) in order to include relevant persons who began their work after 1945 as well as biographical information for each entry. Such material is useful for those who want an orientation to the cast of characters in Bonhoeffer's life, writings, and reception history to date.

The expansion of biographical materials appears to come at a cost, however, for there has been a drastic reduction of the section covering 'key historical and theological terms, subjects and place names'. The German subject index spans over 500 pages, including both volume and page numbers for each entry. In stark contrast, the English edition devotes just over 70 pages to this section while leaving out page numbers, requiring researchers to take the extra step of consulting individual volume indexes. The contraction is

unfortunate, in part because the editors have set a fine precedent for handling multivalent German terms (such as *Anfechtung* or *Buße*): for a subject that has made the cut, an English word is accompanied by the original in parentheses, with cross-referenced variations listed below.

Certain changes from the German volume notwithstanding, the English index and supplemental volume has made a formidable set of texts far more accessible. Given the ongoing significance of Bonhoeffer's writings, the editors have provided us with an immense service.

**Sage:** *Introduction to strategic public relations: digital, global and socially responsible communication*, by Janis Teruggi Page and Lawrence J. Parnell (2018, 496 pp, \$95). Rev. by Danny Paskin, *Journalism and Mass Communication Educator*, 19 March 2018.

Like most textbooks nowadays, this work is accompanied by online resources to be used by both professors, when planning their class, and by students taking the class. It also includes a substantial bibliography, with both the usual and also new sources, and a thorough index which can sometimes be a bit too thorough ('ethics,' for example, is divided into three different categories, and a number of subcategories). It also includes a great, detailed table of contents that makes finding information throughout the book a breeze, as does [sic] the glossary, references, and index. [*It's unusual to find an index criticized for being too thorough.*]

## Indexes censured

**Cambridge University Press:** *The Shakespearean forest*, by Anne Barton, ed. by Hester Lees-Jeffries (2017, 185 pp, £75).

Tactfully reordering and even rewriting a little where necessary, Lees-Jeffries has added a fine introduction, 'Into the Woods', pieced together from Barton's draft original and from portions of a discarded chapter; she has also appended a comprehensive bibliographical essay of her own, bringing the reader up to date with the large amount of related material published in the decade since Barton abandoned the project. The result, aside from a rather skimpy and careless index, seems as finished as anything that Barton published in her lifetime.

**Fortress Press:** *First Isaiah*, by J. J. M. Roberts (2015, xxx + 524 pp, \$69). Rev. by K. C. Hanson, *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, 48(2), 2018.

The volume concludes with a General Bibliography (pp. 491–502) followed by indexes of Passages (biblical and nonbiblical works), Subjects, and Modern Authors. The subject index is notably (and inexplicably) brief with only seven entries; for such a rich commentary, one would have hoped for far more entries. And the author index is erratic, missing numerous authors who are cited and discussed (e.g., A. Kirk Grayson, David D. Luckenbill, Nadav Na'aman, and Yigal Yadin), and some authors that are listed actually have far more citations than are listed in the index. The same is true of the biblical and ancient Near Eastern documents (e.g., *Ludlul bel nemeqi*). In the index of ancient sources, there are no citations listed of any of the extensive Assyrian royal archives or

correspondence (note especially the twenty volumes now available in the State Archives of Assyria series, The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia: Assyrian Periods series, and Hayim Tadmor, *The Inscriptions of Tiglath-pileser III*). But in fact Roberts does make use of some of this material, despite its not appearing in the index.

**Oxford University Press:** *The Oxford handbook of the history of crime and criminal justice*, ed. by Paul Knepper and Anja Johansen (2016, 720 pp, £112.50). Rev. by Gerard Martin, *International Sociology*, 33(2), 20 March 2018.

All chapters end with excellent and up to date bibliographies, most of three to five pages. The index, on the contrary, has gaps – no entrance for ‘Old Bailey,’ ‘underworld,’ ‘mafia,’ and other topics thoroughly covered in the book – and clearly addressed to expert readers: for instance, the emblematic Chicago School is hard to find, because it is listed under the more esoteric ‘social theory’ entry.

**Princeton University Press:** *The dancing lares and the serpent in the garden*, by Harriet I. Flower (2017, 416 pp, £37.95). Rev. by T. P. Wiseman, *Times Literary Supplement*, 16 February 2018.

An inquiry such as Flower’s requires both diachronic treatment and sensitivity to social and political realities at each stage. She does indeed start with the earliest evidence, but thereafter the order of argument becomes much less clear (evidence from Pompeii in the first century AD comes before evidence from Delos in the second century BC), and the index is not robust enough to guide readers safely through the maze.

## Indexes omitted

**Bert Bakker:** *Zeventig jaar zoeken naar het compromis: Parlementaire geschiedenis van Nederland, Deel II 1946–2016* (2017, 960 pp, €55). Rev. by Harry A. Poeze, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, 174(1), 2018.

Only a personal index is included; a subject index for such a book would be an essential addition.

**Chatto & Windus:** *House of Nutter: the rebel tailor of Savile Row*, by Lance Richardson (400 pp, £25). Rev. by Alexander Larman, *Evening Standard*, 3 June 2018.

In fact, barring the absence of an index, it’s hard to find fault with this thoroughly enjoyable glimpse into high fashion and low life.

**Culicidae Press:** *Transatlantic trio: empiricism, evangelicalism, Romanticism: essays and reviews 1974–2017*, by Richard E. Brantley (2017, 743 pp, £65). Rev. by Chris Townsend, *Times Literary Supplement*, 30 March 2108.

The misleading packaging of the book suggests that the Culicidae Press is aiming for a readership beyond academia – the book’s lack of an index marks it out as a product interested in reading experience over rigour.

**Edward Elgar Publishing:** *Migration and social policy*, ed. by Jenny Phillimore (2015, 776 pp, £234). Rev. by Andrew Kozhevnikov, *International Sociology Reviews*, 33(2).

The absence of name and subject indexes complicates navigation through just under 800 pages.

**Fair Acre Press:** *Beyond spring: wanderings through nature*, by Matthew Oates (256 pp, £10.99). Rev. by Jeremy Mynott, *Times Literary Supplement*, 16 March 2018.

Matthew Oates ... is a fully authentic naturalist who is scarcely packaged at all. His book consists in a series of wonderful effusions – about places, poets and personal encounters with wildlife – loosely arranged as a journey from spring to summer. The essays are of various lengths and kinds, and seem to have been written very quickly and not much edited later, but they have an immediacy and passion that compel attention. ... But you have to find your own way around his book, since it is itself an untidy if enchanting wilderness, without route maps or index.

**Alfred A. Knopf:** *See what can be done: essays, criticism, and commentary*, by Lorrie Moore (407 pp, \$29.95). Rev. by Dwight Garner, *New York Times*, 26 March, 2018.

I’ll get what I dislike about it out of the way first, so I can organize my happiness without sensing a stone in my shoe. There is no index. A book of criticism without an index is like a film without credits, or a lobster served without a seafood fork.

**Scribe:** *1947: When now begins*, by Elizabeth Åsbrink (tr. from the Swedish by Fiona Graham) (288 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Katrina Gulliver, *The Spectator*, 2 December 2017.

The lack of an index is a weakness, as the experiences of individuals are returned to throughout the book.

**Het Spectrum:** *Pelgrim: Leven en reizen van Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje*, by Philip Dröge (2017, 355 pp, €19.99). Rev. by Harry A. Poeze, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, 174(1), 2018.

It is a pity that an index is missing. Is it (still) considered as deterring a general readership?

**SWP:** *Helden van toen: The Tielman Brothers en de Nederlandse rock’n’roll 1957–1967*, by Hans Peter Smilde (2017, 392 + 32 pp, €19.95). Rev. by Harry A. Poeze, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, 174(1), 2018.

A discography is added, but no index.

**Trübner & Co.:** *Miracle plays and sacred dramas*, by Karl August von Hase, tr. by A. W. Jackson, ed. by W. W. Jackson (1880, reprint 2017, 284 pp, £19.80). Rev. in *Notes and Queries*, 6th series, vol. 2, 4 September 1880.

We regret to say that the book is without an index and only a very meagre ‘contents’. When will authors and editors learn how greatly the want of an index detracts from the value of every book, be it never so good in every other respect? The trifling addition of time and labour required in its preparation are more than amply repaid in the blessings of all who have need to consult a work well indexed. But readers of N&Q scarcely need to be told all this ....

**Yale University Press:** *Still life before still life*, by David Ekserdjian (2018, 256 pp, £35). Rev. by Susan Owens, *Literary Review*, May 2018.

The structure, though, is not without disadvantages: the chronological order is reset at the beginning of each section, which militates against the development of an overarching narrative that could

have described how and why the still-life elements in these pictures changed over time. ... Similarly, an index, if only of artists' names, would have been helpful.

Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:

Pat Booth, Reading  
Nicola King, Newport Pagnell  
Maureen MacGlashan, Largs

## By the way ...

**William Collins:** *Rebel prince: the power, passion and defiance of Prince Charles*, by Tom Bower (2018, £20). Rev. by Bee Wilson, *The Guardian*, 31 March 2018.

This is a gripping biography, but why has Bower decided to write a book that offers so few crumbs of sympathy or understanding to its subject? If you look up 'CHARLES character' in the index, it lists only negative traits such as 'sense of superiority', 'disloyalty' and 'resentment of Diana'. Even his extensive charitable work for the Prince's Trust is presented negatively, as above all a way 'to improve his profile and buttress his self-belief'.

Bower is the master of the investigative hatchet job ...

Rev. by Craig Brown, *Mail on Sunday*, 1 April 2018.

This year's accused is Prince Charles. A handy summary of the charges against him can be obtained by turning to 'Charles, Prince of Wales' in the book's index, and then looking under 'Character'. The categories listed are: refusal to accept blame; self-doubt; disloyalty; victims of; dislike of criticism/dissenting views; scapegoats; self-pity; intolerance/bad temper; sense of superiority; grudges; selfishness; resentment of Diana; derogatory comments about Diana; on himself; discourteousness. Not a single redeeming characteristic is allowed a look-in.

In his introduction, Bower acknowledges that 'During my research, I inevitably encountered a large number of different opinions', adding: 'All are reflected in this book.' Oh yes? As that index entry suggests, the proportion of space given to the antis and to the pros is roughly 100 to 1.

**Liveright:** *Toscanini: musician of conscience*, by Harvey Sachs (2017, 944 pp, £20). Rev. by Nicholas Kenyon, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 March 2018.

And what a lifetime: as Harvey Sachs says, promisingly, in his Introduction, it 'began before the invention of the phonograph and the incandescent light bulb and ended at the dawn of the space age; an eighty-year musical immersion that began before Wagner and Verdi had written their final masterpieces and that ended in the era of Boulez and Stockhausen ... and a private existence that was torn between love of family and erotic recklessness.' There is certainly enough there for Sachs's almost 900 pages of text, added to which, but available only online, are the full details of programmes, premieres and, more awkwardly, all text references. (But unsurprisingly that is the last we read of Boulez and Stockhausen, who don't even make the index.)

## Recommended

[On the publication of Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* in 1776, Hugh] Blair was especially complimentary about the style, structure and arrangement of the work, but recommended the addition of an index and 'syllabus' setting out the main heads

of the argument; Smith subsequently added the first but not the second.

Jesse Norman, *Adam Smith: what he thought, and why it matters* (Allen Lane, 2018)

## 98 years later

Mr RWF Hopkins writes to us from Victoria, Australia, on a theme pertinent to all would be writers of local history. Lord John Campbell wrote in the preface to the third volume of his *Lives of the Chief Justices of England* (2nd edition, 1858) 'So essential did I consider an index to be to every book that I propose to bring in a Bill into Parliament to deprive an author who publishes a book without an Index of the privilege of copyright and, moreover, to subject him, for his offence, to a pecuniary penalty'!

What was thus expressed 98 years ago of the authors' neglect to provide the essential and necessary indexes for every publication still reflects on those same persistent omissions today. Everyone knows nowadays the presence of an index would save the searcher the time wasting and needless trouble of wading through the pages for some item somewhere in the book.

*The Amateur Historian*, 2(8), October/November 1955

## Early days

Some national organizations of which you may not have heard: The Society of Indexers (3 Western Mansions, Western Parade, Barnet, Herts.) deserves the support of all interested in the production of books which can be used as well as read through once. A book without an index has only half the value of a well indexed one.

*The Amateur Historian*, 4(4), Summer 1959

## Junior indexer wanted

We've had the *TLS* in Literature, the *TLS* in Poetry, in Fiction, in Crime Fiction – a fatal weapon wrapped up in the paper, though we hope not in NB – the *TLS* in Art, and in much else. Why not Romantic Fiction? Surely a copy of the 6,000th issue skilfully wrapped in a red ribbon would make an irresistible overture? Now we have the *TLS* in Detective Fiction, an altogether gentler genre than Crime.

A reader sends us a reference to *That Yew Tree's Shade* by Cyril Hare, published in 1954. Seventeen-year-old Godfrey Ransome, reading the *TLS* in bed, reflects: 'It is the charm of that periodical that the reader never knows from column to column what aspect of learning he will encounter next'. We have the feeling we've mentioned Godfrey and *That Yew Tree's Shade* before. (There is no *TLS* in Literature index. Perhaps some equally bookish seventeen-year-old would like to compile one, in bed or out of it?)

J. C., NB, *Times Literary Supplement*, 30 March 2018

## Payment in kind

The *TLS* in Literature still awaits its indexer and the payment on offer remains the same: twelve initialled copies of the Royal Wedding edition of Wise Man Say.

J. C., NB, *Times Literary Supplement*, 24 May 2018

[*Wise Man Say* is 'our forthcoming book of aphorisms, currently in the final stages of preparation in the basement labyrinth' (*TLS*, 29 July 2011). Seven years later, we understand the book is still in preparation.]

### Motto for an index

Over 20 years ago a valuable correspondent [of *Notes and Queries*] sought 'a motto or maxim for an index' (2nd series, vol. 1, p. 413). Among the communications received, one 'proposed the old Latin saying *Verbum sat* [a word to the wise is enough], and your old and honoured contributor, the late Dr Husenbeth, made a fair hit in the *Monstror digito praetereuntium* of Horace (Carm. iv, iii, 22). The others do not require notice here, save perhaps one by Indagator, who, however, was unable to name his author (2nd series, vi, 316); and although I regret to think it may be too late to satisfy your original querist (whose contributory signature I regret to have missed for some years past), I may perhaps be permitted to suggest as such motto, in case it should still be required for an index or any other book of reference, certain other words of Horace, few and to the point: '*Quod petis, hic est*' [What you seek is here] (Epist., i, xi, 29).

WTM, *Notes and Queries*, 4 January 1878

[No translation has been found for Dr Husenbeth's quotation from Horace.]

### Passim

Marseille was founded 2600 years ago .... The city's port has forever been central to the trade of the sea: in Fernand Braudel's *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, Marseille is mentioned so often that when you turn to its entry in the book's index, you find no page numbers, just a word – passim.

Inigo Thomas, 'At Maison Empereur', *London Review of Books*, 10 May 2018

[*Passim* (Latin: 'everywhere, throughout, dispersedly, here and there') was formerly used for significant but sporadic mentions. The current British Standard (BS ISO 999: 1996) does not recommend its use, and trainees are advised to avoid using it. Rather a pity perhaps – it could be quite useful.]

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## Book review

**The accidental data scientist: big data applications and opportunities for librarians and information professionals.** Amy Affelt. 2015. Medford, N.J., Information Today. Pbk, 222 pp., \$39.50/£29.88. Kindle edn. \$23.85/£17.96.

In *The accidental data scientist*, Amy Affelt focuses on the need for librarians to market themselves as valuable to Big Data teams. It is more of a manifesto than a how-to manual. Affelt states in her introduction,

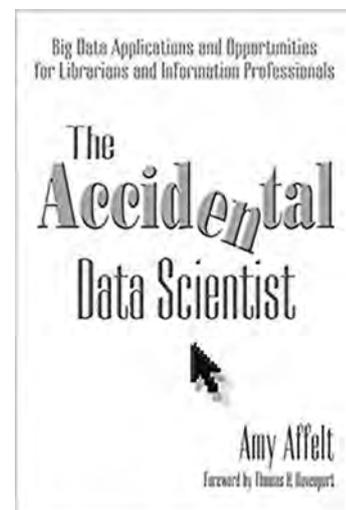
I am on a personal mission to ensure that librarians and information professionals are first and foremost in the minds of those making hiring decisions for Big Data plans, positions, and projects. It is my hope that after reading this book, you will join me in this mission.

What is Big Data? Affelt discusses the meaning of the term in great detail, then finally summarizes it as 'you know it when you see it.' Others have defined it more succinctly by stating that Big Data is not a 'thing' but 'a way of labelling the changes in data production, collection and management that we are currently experiencing' (Moore and Tall, 2013). I also struggled to find a concise description of the term 'data scientist' in this book. According to Thomas Davenport, whom Affelt quotes in her introduction, data scientists are 'high-ranking professionals with the training and curiosity to make discoveries in the world of big data.' There was a good section comparing the roles of data scientists and librarians (and their overlaps). In summary, librarians locate and evaluate secondary data, whereas data scientists examine and sort raw and unstructured data.

Affelt's focus is on the role of corporate librarians. She occasionally uses the term 'librarians and information professionals' but for the most part, her advice and examples apply best to librarians working in organizations or in special libraries. She mentions indexing skills, but only in passing, and assumes that librarians have

proficient indexing, metadata and taxonomy skills, as illustrated by this paragraph:

Indexing and abstracting skills are also imperative when working with Big Data. Datasets compiled by corporations can be extremely valuable, not only for use in research and analysis, but also as proprietary intellectual property. However, if that data is not easy to locate using controlled yet intuitive vocabulary, it is virtually worthless. Librarians, being well-versed in metadata and taxonomy skills, are the best people to organize these datasets using the terminology of the industry in which we work, allowing easy retrieval of the datapoints critical to a research project.



Affelt states in her introduction that 'the most important reason that librarians and information professionals should be hired to play key roles in Big Data is that we are excellent at storytelling, and storytelling is one of the most important – if not the most important – ways of understanding the insights uncovered by a Big Data project.' By storytelling, Affelt seems to mean communicating the results of Big Data projects, which would indeed be an interesting role for information professionals. Much of the book focuses on the skills of librarians as critical thinkers and their ability to find data and assess its reliability. However, Affelt's broad statements that librarians have 'unique knowledge' to perform this type of