Personal names as phrases

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Names presented as phrases are an often overlooked category of names indexing, not covered in many resources, yet they present many challenges to indexers about whether they should be indexed in direct or inverted order, provoking lively discussion on their treatment. Noeline Bridge categorizes these types of names, illustrated with examples, many from her own indexing, along with advice on how to index them.

Introduction

It is much easier to recognize a name in the form of a phrase than to describe one. They are those names comprising more than one word, but which fit no recognizable pattern of forename(s) and surname – often there are no recognizable names at all. When names are included, they are almost always forenames. These may be preceded by titles and terms of address, or words indicating relationships. A principal characteristic is that such names appear and read as a unit. The elements are not easily divided for inverted order, yet they often look odd in direct order.

They may be the names of mythical or fictitious persons, or of animals. When they are the names of real people, they can be pseudonyms, either chosen by the bearer or bestowed by others. Such pseudonyms are most common in the fields of the fine and performing arts, and some sports (for example, a book I indexed on professional wrestling abounded in them). Otherwise, they may represent shorter or longer forms of people's real names – forenames preceded or followed by other words.

> Aimless Annie
> assume vivid astro focus
> Aunt Matilda
> Calamity Jane
> Claire Voyant
> Cousin Fannie
> Donald Duck
> Dusty Rhodes
> El Greco
> Eric the Red
> Gérard à Johnny
> Gorgeous George
> Kiki of Montparnasse
> Ku Klux Klan
> Lady Gaga
> Le Corbusier
> Little Irish Jackie
> Loch Ness Monster

> Master of the Bigallo Crucifix
> Miss Daisy
> P'tit Jean
> Powers of Pain
> Talal ibn Abdel Aziz
> Uncle Remus

When names like these present themselves to indexers, they cause anxiety and queries on indexers' listservs. Should they be indexed in direct order – as above – or inverted? Assistance is not generally provided in the usual indexing manuals; only Wellisch provides some basic guidance, with a few examples that depend heavily on those used in *AACR2* (*Anglo-American cataloguing rules*). My forthcoming (2012) book, *Indexing names*, adds advice for pseudonyms in the performing arts (written by Linda Dunn), and 'partial names' (forenames preceded by terms of address) in biography (Martin White).

Otherwise, *AACR2* contains the most useful advice, especially in the 1998 revision. I find its rule for cataloguing names as phrases, 22.11, particularly useful for indexing, especially in its division of these names into four categories. I have followed its approach in this article, rearranging the order of the categories and adapting their wording somewhat, and adding a fifth category.

Categories of personal names as phrases

There are five categories of personal names as phrases:

- words including no recognizable forename(s)
- forename(s) preceded by words that do not consist of a term of address or title of office, but are usually an adjective or similar
- forename(s) preceded by words that are a term of address or title of office – that is, words expressing a relationship or profession
- names including the appearance of forename(s) or initials, and a surname
- forename(s) followed by a designation.

Treatment of the first four categories can be summed up by stating that names in the first category only are usually catalogued or indexed in direct order – that is, as phrases – while the following three categories take inversion. This is summarized in an admirably succinct sentence from the government of Maine's Minerva library cataloging guidelines: 'If a name is in the form of a phrase, it is entered as it appears unless it looks like a forename and a surname.' As a decent working statement, it's useful, but indexing practice and indexer opinion sometimes contradict or add complexity to this precept. Names in the fifth category are, like those in the first, indexed in direct order.

Words including no recognizable forename(s)

> assume vivid astro focus
> Dingo Warrier
> Dr. Dre
> El Greco
> Giant Haystacks
> Le Corbusier
> Loch Ness Monster
> Master of the Bigallo Crucifix
> Master of the Pala Sforzesca
> Powers of Pain

This first category is the easiest to index. For the most part, direct order is the obvious choice, with two areas of possible doubt: names beginning with articles, and those beginning 'Master of'.

With regard to the names beginning with articles, El Greco and Le Corbusier, the question is the position of the article. Without specific guidance from the usual indexing sources, I rely on the general principle that names beginning with articles are indexed under the article.

> El Greco
> Le Corbusier

However, the Library of Congress Authorities uses 'Greco' (with no mention of 'El'), but 'Le Corbusier'! Whether the 'the Greek' is different from 'the basket-maker' in some subtle way, I don't know. To me, this is truly one of those 'it depends' decisions. How does the author refer predominantly to the person: the full phrase, or as 'Greco' and 'Corbusier'? Either way, *see* references should be made from the unused form of the name.

For the 'Master' names, the second half of the phrase may well be the more memorable for index users. Hence,

> Bigallo Crucifix, Master of the
> Pala Sforzesca, Master of the

Whichever is chosen, a *see* reference should be made from the other portion of the name. This is especially important because the 'Master' names often vary in entry: for example, the 'Master of the Bigallo Crucifix' is sometimes seen as the 'Bigallo Master', or 'Bigallo Crucifix Master'. Also, it is probable that the works of which these artists were 'masters' are also featured within the text, so the connection between work and artist should be present in the index.

Forename(s) preceded by words consisting of a term of address or title of office

This is the category where a lot of dissension begins. This and the following category are directly related: each consists of forenames preceded by particular words: sometimes these are terms of address/titles of office, and sometimes they are not. Terms of address include words indicating relationships (Aunt, Cousin, Uncle) and expressions of respect (Miss, Master); titles of office indicate profession (Chef, Dr., Fra, Judge, Master).

> Aunt Matilda
> Chef Gregory
> Cousin Al
> Dr. Eve
> Fra Angelico
> Grandma Moses
> Judge Judy
> Master Alexander
> Miss Daisy

These names are best indexed under the forename; that is, in inverted order:

> Al, Cousin
> Alexander, Master
> Angelico, Fra
> Daisy, Miss
> Eve, Dr.
> Fannie, Cousin
> Judy, Judge
> Matilda, Aunt
> Moses, Grandma

See references from direct order are desirable, if there's room and if the index doesn't contain many of these sorts of names. In the latter circumstance, most users would discern the order quickly; prolific *see* references from the preceding terms would hamper more than help.

Forename(s) preceded by words other than a term of address or title of office

Such words are usually adjectives, as in

> Aimless Annie
> Calamity Jane
> Gorgeous George
> Gros Jean
> Old Jane
> P'tit Jean

Inverted order for these names is prescribed by *AACR2*. I prefer it, but consider that these examples could go one way or the other, depending upon how memorable the names are as phrases, in direct order, and the predominance

given by the author – whether the author predominantly refers to them by the phrase or by the following forename. Another factor is whether the same forename is also used for a different individual in the index, and any association between the two: the examples 'Gros Jean' and 'P'tit Jean' occurred within the same text, with a clear association, each Jean having received his preceding adjective by comparison with the other. Because the names were intended to go together, inverted order was especially appropriate in this index for a text that contained a number of such names, no surnames given, the bestowed adjectives distinguishing the similarly named persons one from another.

Names including the appearance of forename(s), or initials, and a surname

> Claire Voyant
> Dusty Rhodes
> Mark Twain
> Sterling Golden

Some degree of judgement is involved in deciding what 'appearance' means. For example, Rhodes is a well-known surname, but should Golden be considered one? And could Claire Voyant be conceivably regarded as a forename and surname? I would argue for generosity with interpretation of 'appearance' here; there are many unusual, even strange-looking surnames, many of them borne by people who inherited these names as legitimate names. So I have few qualms about using inverted order for these names.

Mark Twain is included in this category because Samuel Langhorne Clemens chose this Mississippi boat command as his pseudonym. When this originating factor was revealed in an online discussion on Index-L, an argument ensued about whether his name should be indexed as the phrase, 'Mark Twain', versus inversion as Twain, Mark. However, it seems quite obvious that Clemens chose the name intending it to be seen as a first and last name, and thus it appears, in inverted order, in library catalogs and other reference sources. Would anyone, except for the few in possession of the name's esoteric source and an overly pedantic disposition, look for his name under 'Mark'?

Forename(s) followed by a designation

> Augustine of Hippo
> Billy the Kid
> Eric the Red
> Gérard à Johnny
> Leathlobhar mac Loingseach (Nic Coíl, 2011: C2)
> Levi ben Gerson of Orange (Mertes, in Bridge, 2012)
> Megan verch Evan
> Philip the Bold
> Talal ibn Abdel Aziz (Hedden, 2007, C13)
> Thomas the Rhymer

Medieval names abound in such phrases, constructed to distinguish persons with the same forename before the widespread adoption of surnames. The designations, referred to as bynames or nicknames, consist of words conveying

parentage, patrimony, origin, personal characteristic, title or societal status, tribe or clan, and position within a family, or any combination of these. The names may, therefore, get quite long and complicated when incorporating a number of elements. The main problem is sorting out whether a surname is present, and which is the forename, which often isn't obvious.

Names of this type are still used in several parts of the world; in fact, in some countries, there is a tendency to revive the use of patronymics. Medieval names are almost never inverted, but modern ones constructed in the same style may or may not be, depending on several factors: indexing conventions for different national or ethnic names, author usage, and the 'name by which [the person] is commonly known' (*AACR2*). Indexers often have to research the names to discover the best order, which may involve determining the meaning of the various elements in non-English languages. Beyond the assistance provided in the mainstream indexing manuals, IFLA's *Names of persons* can be very useful for its broad, universal coverage. *Indexer* articles treating names of several nationalities that are often indexed as such phrases are Hedden (2007), Moore (2011) and Nic Coíl (2011). In *Indexing names* (Bridge, 2012), Hedden extends her *Indexer* article; and Kate Mertes and Madeleine Davis unravel classical and medieval, and Indonesian names respectively.

Additions to names

To quote *AACR2*, 'If such a name does not convey the idea of a person, add in parentheses a suitable designation in English.'

> Happy Piano (musician)
> Ku Klux Klan (wrestler)
> Loch Ness Monster (wrestler)
> Taj Mahal (musician)

There are several circumstances in which these additions would be useful. The first occurs where the name is also that of a non-human entity, as with most of the examples above; and, of course, the addition would be essential if the non-human entity also appears in the text. However, even where disambiguation isn't an issue, the designation may be added for simple clarity or to reduce confusion: if, on reading over the completed index, the indexer feels the need to add such a designation, he or she should do so. If the indexer feels its need, the user will probably need it even more.

Fictitious characters

Indexers are divided in their opinions regarding the indexing of the names of fictitious characters, between those who see them all as phrases, to be indexed in direct order, and those who see their treatment as complementary to that of the names of real people. The division becomes less with regard to the names of fictitious animals, which most indexers consider should be indexed in direct order.

This division is the subject of Madeleine Davis's (2011)

Indexer article, which quotes usefully from various sources, including Hazel Bell's *Indexing biographies* and Glenda Browne and Jon Jermey's *The indexing companion*. The subject is also discussed in three chapters of my forthcoming *Indexing names*: a dedicated chapter by Enid Zafran, and within chapters by Sherry L. Smith (who also suggests double-posting) and my own introduction to the book. Reprising and commenting on these discussions in any detail is beyond the scope of this article and would take up too much space, so I refer readers to those sources.

I belong to the camp that sees their indexing as analogous to the indexing of real people's names, whatever the above category.

> Boop, Betty (*being generous with 'appearance' of a surname!*)
> Buchanan, Daisy
> Buchanan, Tom
> Eyre, Jane
> Forsyte, Fleur
> Forsyte, Soames
> Moto, Mr.
> Norris, Aunt
> Omnium, Duke of
> Remus, Uncle
> Simpson, Bart
> Simpson, Homer
> Simpson, Lisa
> Slope, Obadiah
> Thorne, Dr.

This is also the treatment used by the Library of Congress Authority File, which adds the designation '(Fictitious character)' following the name. I consider that the category 'Names including the appearance of forename(s), or initials, and a surname' above comprises the best treatment for the names of fictitious characters with fore- and surnames (the majority). Although I consider there is some merit to the argument that these names are usually looked up under forename, entry under surname provides logic and consistency, especially where several characters belonging to the same family are concerned. Otherwise, the practice of entry under what users would most likely consult can become subjective to the point of idiosyncrasy within the same index. Hence, I would consider that the names of fictitious persons do not come under the category 'names as phrases'.

Animals, however, are a different matter.

> Black Beauty
> Curious George
> Earl Grey
> Felix the Cat
> Kermit the Frog
> King Kong
> Wile E. Coyote

All these are obviously best indexed as phrases, just as they are. When it comes to the 'appearance' of surnames, notwithstanding that a vet we used when we lived in another city bestowed the owners' surnames upon the names of their pets (Humbug Alston, Pirate Garber-Conrad) and referred to them as such, animals don't possess family names in the same way fictitious people often do. Hence,

> Daisy Rothschild
> Donald Duck
> Mickey Mouse

However, and to stretch my ever-vivid and perhaps over-active imagination, inverted form may be best if other animal characters share the last name, which may, in context, be considered the 'appearance' of a surname:

> Duck, Bluffer
> Duck, Daisy
> Duck, Donald
> Mouse, Mickey
> Mouse, Minnie

Anything's possible in indexing!

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