

work a pleasure to use. It will be especially valuable for all Catholic institutions, but it is recommended also for large academic and public libraries and for those having special collections in theology.—*Lucille Whalen, State University of New York at Albany.*

Morse, Grant W. *Guide to the Incomparable New York Times Index*. New York: Fleet, 1980. 72p. \$11.95; \$6.95 paper. LC 79-87815. ISBN 0-8303-0159-3.

Morse has somehow managed to convince himself (and a publisher) that the *New York Times Index* is so enigmatic and abstruse that his personal intervention was warranted in the form of this slim volume. "Incomparable" qualities notwithstanding, he admonishes those who "... naively insist that any intelligent person is capable of comprehending the *Index* without a guide." The fact that the *NYTI*, like many other reference sources, harbors a few unique elements and approaches by no means justifies Morse's well-intentioned contribution.

The *Guide to the Incomparable New York Times Index* seems to have been prepared under the assumption that the user is mild-

ly retarded yet simultaneously delivers page after page of extremely tedious information on subject headings, cross-references, and entries. One wonders who constitutes Morse's primary audience. He immodestly and ungrammatically announces that "Here-in one will find what you always wanted to know about the *New York Times Index*, but never dared ask." Though Morse does answer many questions that none would dream of posing, he does provide several practical observations, e.g., the *NYTI* serves as index and abstract, it can often be used as a fairly accurate guide to major stories in other newspapers, and that librarians should save the daily news summaries until the *Index* itself arrives. Certainly he seems hard-pressed to carry on for seventy-two pages; an appendix section, for example, contains full-page photographs of the *Index*, of an anonymous hand removing microfilm from a cabinet, of someone removing reel from box, and of someone consulting film on a reader. Furthermore, the book is strangely arranged; there is no logical sequence or progression. Perhaps the most useful section is the one entitled "Miscellaneous Information."

Morse's prose style is, to say the least, most unusual. Rarely has this reviewer seen anything like it committed to print. Two typical examples:

The reputation of the Times shines perhaps the brightest in that within its pages are found a large number of source documents in full or in substantial excerpts, and thus it came to be regarded as "The newspaper of record."

Throughout the years The New York Times has maintained a status unequalled in the history of periodical publishing in the length of time of its continuous publication, the comprehensiveness of its coverage, and the quality of its authoritativeness. It is beyond question the outstanding resource for general reference and serials divisions of libraries worldwide.

There is no need to belabor the obvious. The *Guide to the Incomparable New York Times Index* is simply not a worthwhile reference acquisition. For the most part, Morse has made much ado about not much at all. In order to preserve the reputation of both author and publisher, the *Guide*, like a faulty automobile, should be recalled if in fact it has already been released.—*Mark R.*

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***Pseudonyms and Nicknames Dictionary.***

First edition. Edited by Jennifer Mossman. Detroit: Gale, 1980. 627p. \$48. LC 80-13274. ISBN 0-8103-0549-6.

The *Pseudonyms and Nicknames Dictionary (PND)* will not replace any works a library already has on pseudonyms and nicknames but it will supplement them. Its scope is revealed in a subtitle worthy of a nineteenth-century novel, "A Guide to Pseudonyms, Pen Names, Nicknames, Epithets, Stage Names, Cognomens, Aliases, and Sobriquets of Twentieth-Century Persons, including the Subjects' Real Names, Basic Biographical Information, and Citations for the Sources from Which the Entries Were Compiled." It is thus limited to "figures who have achieved some degree of prominence or recognition" who were alive during some part of the twentieth century, with emphasis on North Americans and Western Europeans. It includes more than 17,000 real names and almost 22,000 assumed ones, with authors accounting for only 40 percent of the names.

The *PND* was compiled by consulting more than eighty biographical dictionaries and through contacts with specialists in fields such as auto racing and rodeos. A useful feature is an indication by the real name of the source or sources used to obtain the information. In addition to providing a source of verification, this serves as a starting point for further investigation. When no source is listed, the information was obtained through independent editorial research.

Since most libraries hold a number of pseudonym and nickname dictionaries already, it is important to know how the *PND* compares with them. I selected Harold Sharp's *Handbook of Pseudonyms and Personal Nicknames* (Scarecrow, 1972) and *Supplement* (1975), Frank Atkinson's *Dictionary of Pseudonyms and Pen Names* (Linett Books, 1975), Samuel Halkett and John Laing's *Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous English Literature* (Oliver and Boyd, v.8, 1956, and v.9, 1962), and Laurence Urdang's *Twentieth Century American Nicknames* (Wilson, 1979) for

comparison. Taking a page of the *PND* with forty-seven names, I found twenty-eight not listed in Sharp. Of the twenty English or American authors on the page, nineteen were not listed in Halkett and nine were not in Atkinson. Six of the eleven twentieth-century personal nicknames were not in Urdang. Covering the same alphabetical range, Sharp had six twentieth-century names not in *PND*, Halkett seven, Atkinson three, and Urdang five. *PND* is thus not comprehensive but it does add significantly to any pseudonym and nickname collection. From recent ads it appears that the *PND* will be supplemented in usual Gale fashion by *New Pseudonyms and Nicknames*, thus increasing its usefulness especially for current figures.

Given its restriction to twentieth-century figures, one surprising area in which I found some lacks was what might be described as popular culture. *PND* had no listings for Miss Vicky (Mrs. Herbert "Tiny Tim" Buckingham Khaury), Cheech (Richard Marin), or Evel Knievel (Robert Craig Knievel). *PND* is, however, strong in sports. Another problem is that an asterisk is used to indicate a pseudonym, but that is not explained anywhere. It would also be useful, in the case of authors, to distinguish between pen names and nicknames.—Carol M. Tobin, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

Brown, Clara D., and Smith, Lynn S. ***Serials: Past, Present and Future.*** 2d rev. ed. Birmingham, Ala.: EBSCO Industries, Inc., 1980. 390p. \$20. LC 80-81267. ISBN 0-913956-05-8.

Despite the somewhat misleading title, *Serials: Past, Present and Future* is intended as a handbook for new serials librarians and a reference tool for experienced ones and deals primarily with the specifics of serials management. It is an enlarged and revised edition of Clara Brown's *Serials: Acquisition and Maintenance*, published in paper in 1972. The first edition contains solid information on such matters as who to order serials from, how to know when to claim, and what to do with duplicate issues and reflects the author's long experience in the field and her familiarity with all types of serials problems. This new edition builds on