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From Flock Beds to Professionalism: A History of Index-Makers

“The book is designed such that you need not read it sequentially. Start from the table of contents or the index, or simply open it at random to find interesting bits of indexer lore. The book has content enough to satisfy both the indexing novice and the wizened pro and is well worth reading.”— Dick Evans, *Technical Communication*

“I was delighted to receive a copy of this book. The more I read, the more I wanted to read. The index itself is lovely, using many subtleties that I rarely see in practice. I must admit that seeing that level of detail in an index is wonderful. I have to strongly recommend this book for anyone wanting to immerse themselves in the history of our shared profession.”— Natalie Boon, *Bulletin of the Indexing Society of Canada*

“The book is a wonderful paean to the profession. Hazel Bell appears eminently qualified to write a history of index-makers. The book will appeal to anyone who has ever been curious to know why the names of indexers are rarely known. There can be absolutely no doubt that Bell has done a great service to her profession by bringing us face to face with the greatest pioneers in the field.

What there is for the interested reader is a treasure trove of information about indexers and their habits that is not easily found elsewhere.”— Robert J. Desmarais, *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada*

“*From Flock Beds to Professionalism* has a fine index, but what else could you expect?”— Judith A. Douville

“Read and enjoy—you will be amazed at the wealth of fascinating information contained within this beautifully written and produced book.”— Geraldine Beare

“Hazel Bell has embraced the profession of indexing and made it visible and entertaining. She serves indexers well. This book will surely be a revelation to anyone curious about this previously anonymous profession.”— Nancy Mulvany

“This is an engaging look at indexing, encompassing pioneering practitioners.”— *Book Reviews*

“For anyone interested in the development of professions associated with publishing, it is a useful compendium of information in convenient book form.”— Ann Kingdom

“This is a who’s who of the book world’s least feted foot soldiers. Bell has unearthed colorful snippets about this self-effacing but often witty breed.”— Rosemary Goring

“I found this inspiring and humorous book a delightful read about the roots of indexing and the threads of continuity that follow us into the 21st century.”— Jill Edwards

“...an intriguing survey of a little-studied area...an engaging look at indexing, encompassing pioneering practitioners.”— *Library and Information Update*

“Bell’s book...raises esoteric to a whole new level of meaning.”— Glasgow Herald

“Bell offers some entertaining anecdotage.”— *Times Literary Supplement*

“As a whole, *From Flock Beds to Professionalism* deals with a topic not previously treated in this way in book form, and thus fills a gap in the literature of indexing, as well as of information science.” —Jochen Fassbender, Breman

“In this task she succeeds tremendously well, as one cannot help but want to read more about Percy Fitzgerald, ‘indexer with arrogance,’ and Frederick A. Pottle, ‘the wittiest indexer,’ to name but two more examples.”

“Although each entry is painstakingly compiled, this book can be dipped into with something approaching ludic delight.”

“One thing is certain: the soulless efficiency of the computer simply is no match for the stories Bell has to tell. And her indexers in their flock beds have finally received their due.”—Michael Dzanko, *Libraries & the Cultural Record*

“Hazel K. Bell is the doyenne of indexers.”- William Baker, *Year’s Work in English Studies*

“I was unprepared for the range, diversity and sheer brilliance of the personalities lying behind the names.” —David Crystal in William Baker’s Review, *Year’s Work in English Studies*