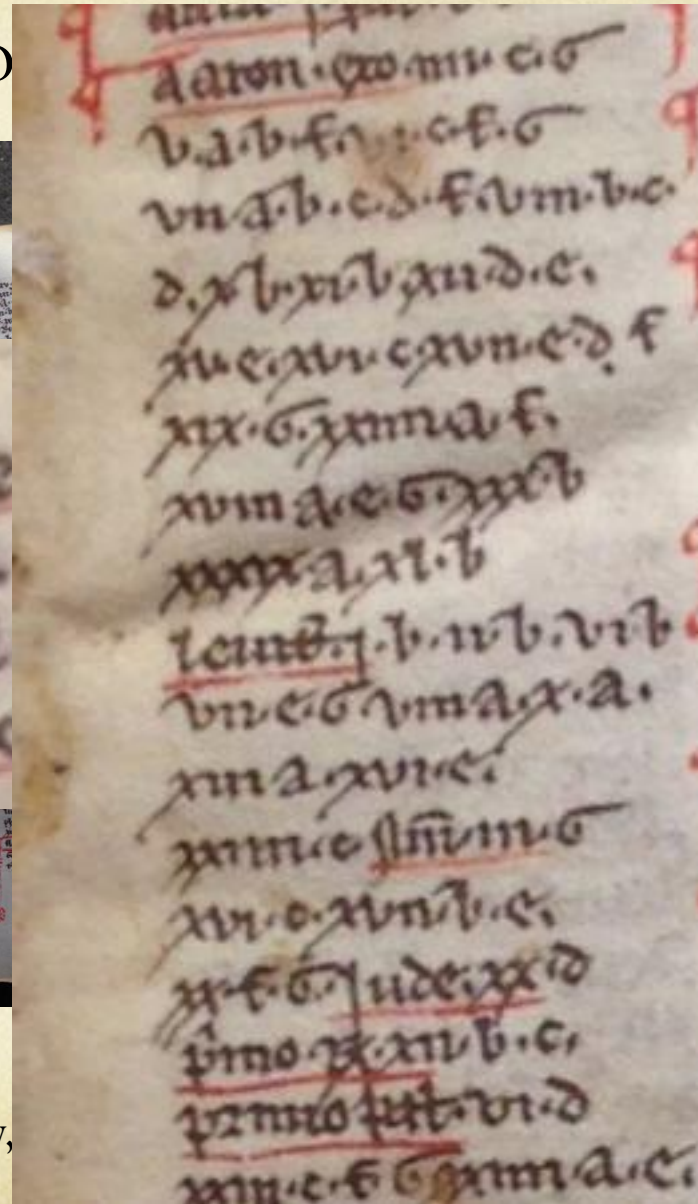
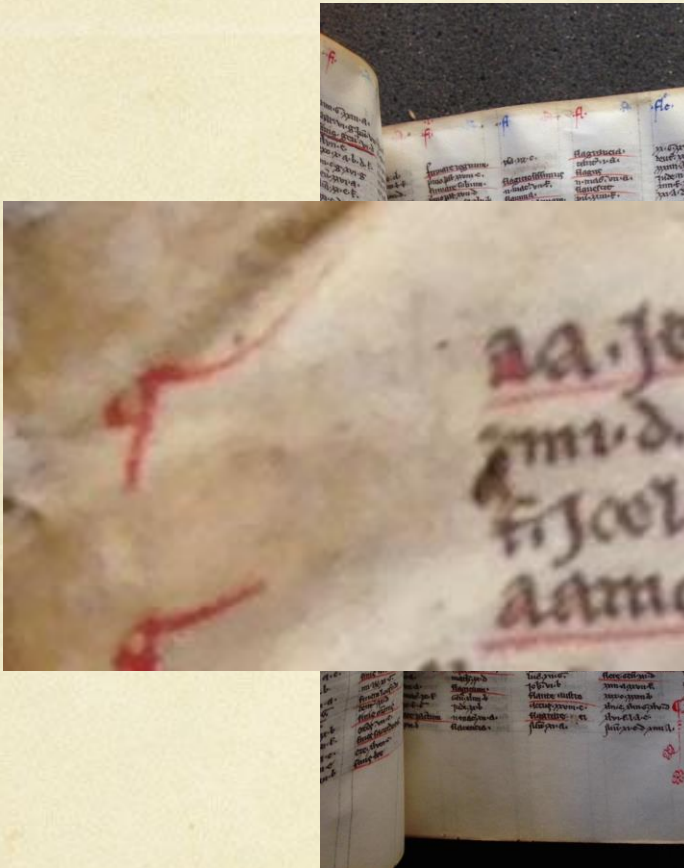


“Filthy Talk, p. 2”:  
Scenes from the History of the  
Book Index

Dr Dennis Duncan  
Jesus College, Oxford  
13 September, 2016

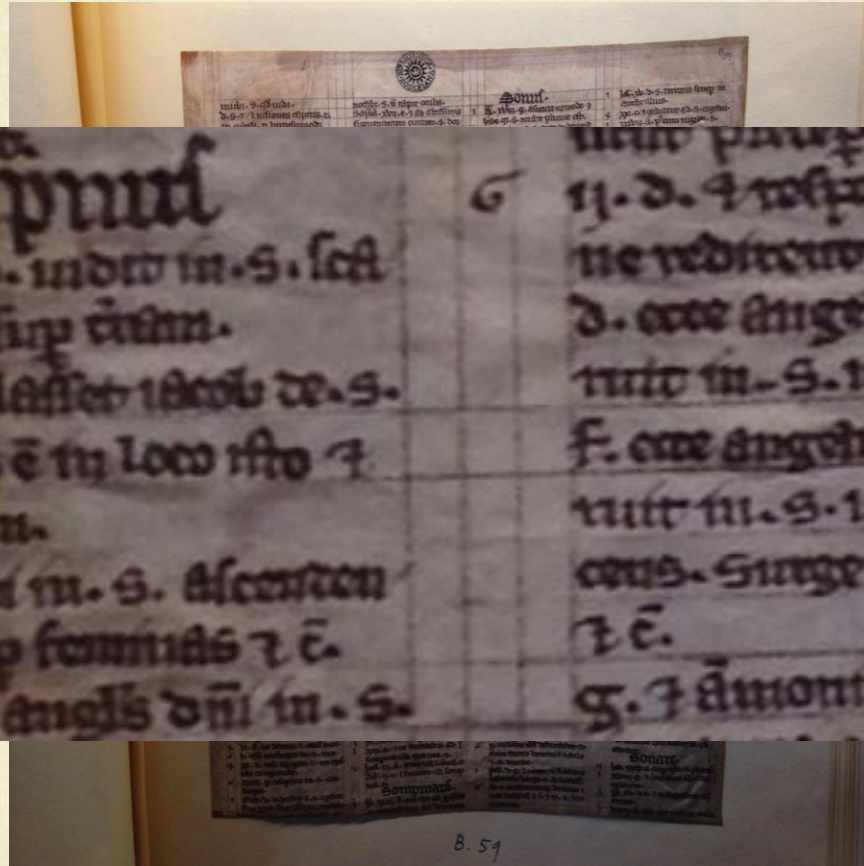
# St Jacques Conco



Oxford, Bodleian Library,

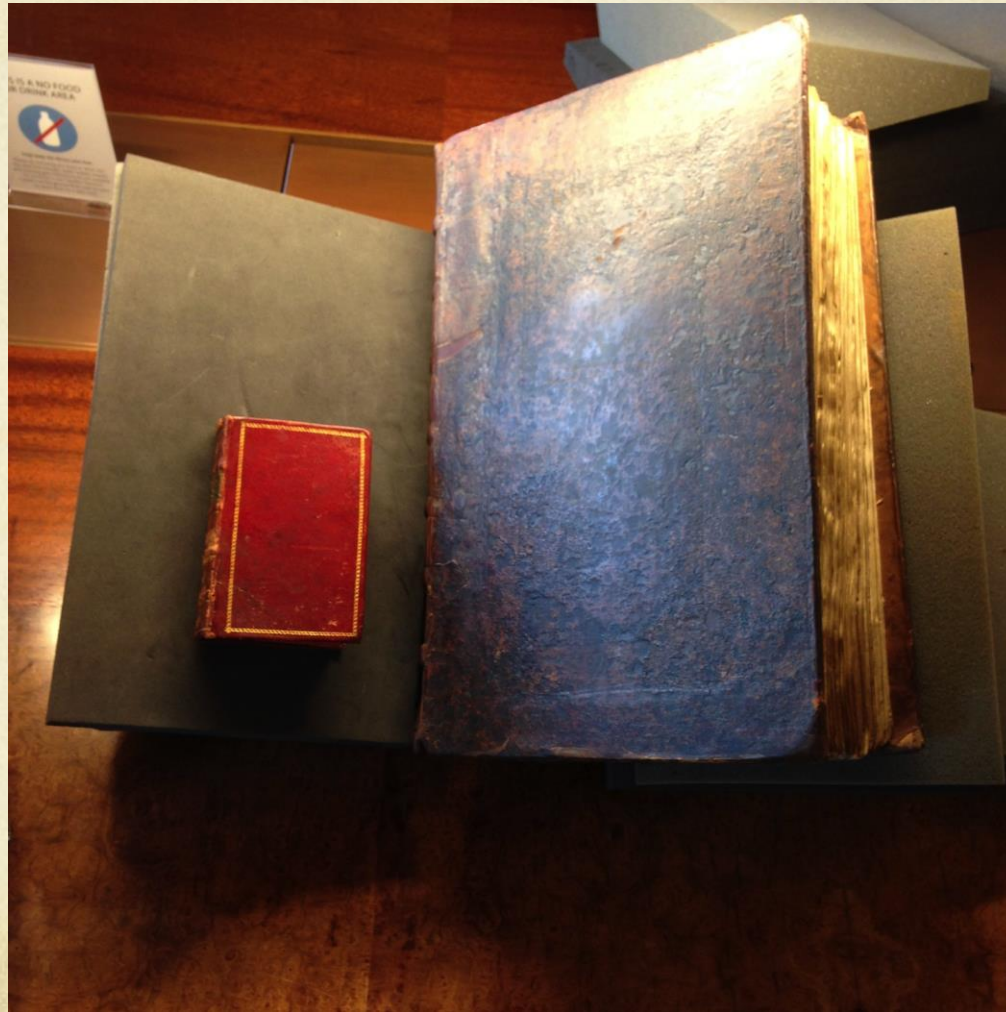


# “English Concordance”, c.1250



Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Lat. Misc. b. 18, f.59..

# First & Third Concordances





J:

filthy talk	2
formicai:	4
wrath	8
Munkher	13
swearing	
curſing	

Thomas Young, *Englands Bane, or a Description of Drunkenesse* (1634)  
Washington DC, Folger Shakespeare Library, STC 26117

“plerique [titulum et indicem] solos legunt”  
[many people only read the title and the index].  
Erasmus, *Brevissima scholia* (1532)

“that herd who, in order to learn how matters such as this take place, do not betake themselves to ships or crossbows or cannons, but retire into their studies and glance through an index [...] to see whether Aristotle has said anything about them.”  
Galileo, ‘Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems’ (1632)

“there is a lazy kind of learning, which is onely Indical; when Scholars (like adders which onely bite the horse heels) nibble but at the Tables, [...] neglecting the body of the book.”  
Thomas Fuller, *Worthies of England* (1662)



# Table of Contents

1. 1698: Charles Boyle vs Richard Bentley

Intermission: *The Transactioneer* (1700)

2. 1705: William Bromley vs Joseph Addison

3. 1718: John Oldmixon vs Laurence Echard

# Harold Macmillan's letter to the Society of Indexers (1957)

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10 Downing Street  
Whitehall

14th November, 1957

I am glad to be able to accept your Secretary's kind invitation and to send a message to the Society for the first issue of 'The Indexer'.

I have also to admit, with all proper regret, that Sir Edward - a stout Liberal - mentioned the reported instructions given by Macaulay:

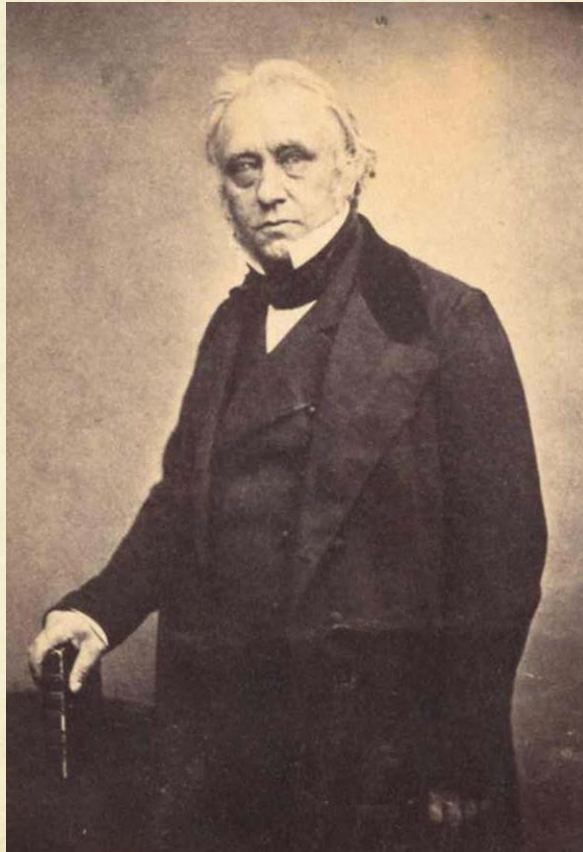
'Let no damned Tory index my "History".'

But I must resist the temptation to go on quoting, and must content myself with saying that the Society of Indexers seems likely to have the opportunity of doing valuable work in upholding the standard of indexing and in bringing its practitioners into touch with those who require their services. I wish the Society and its members prosperity and success in their undertakings.

*Harold Macmillan*



“Let No Damned Tory Index My *History*”

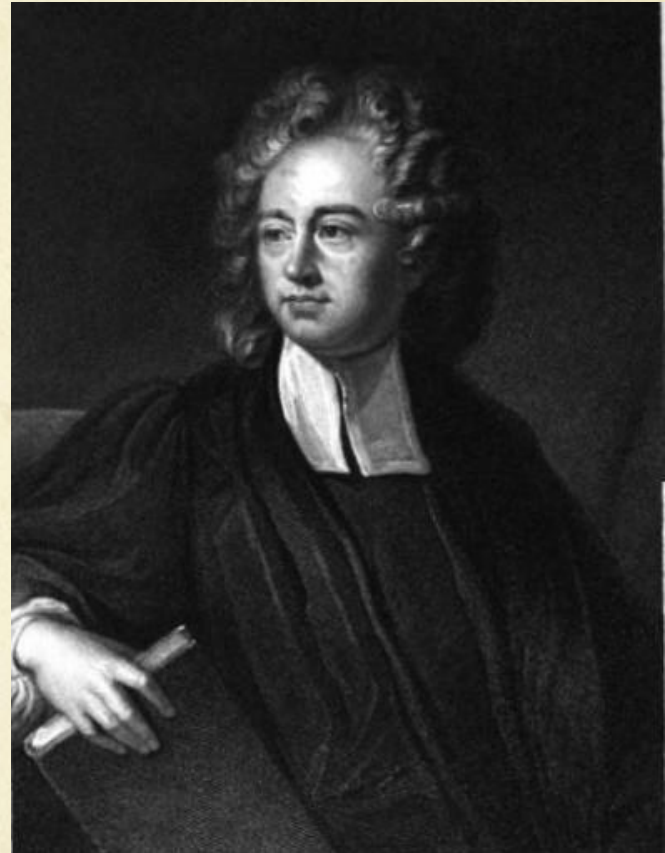


Thomas Macaulay (1800-59)

# Boyle vs Bentley



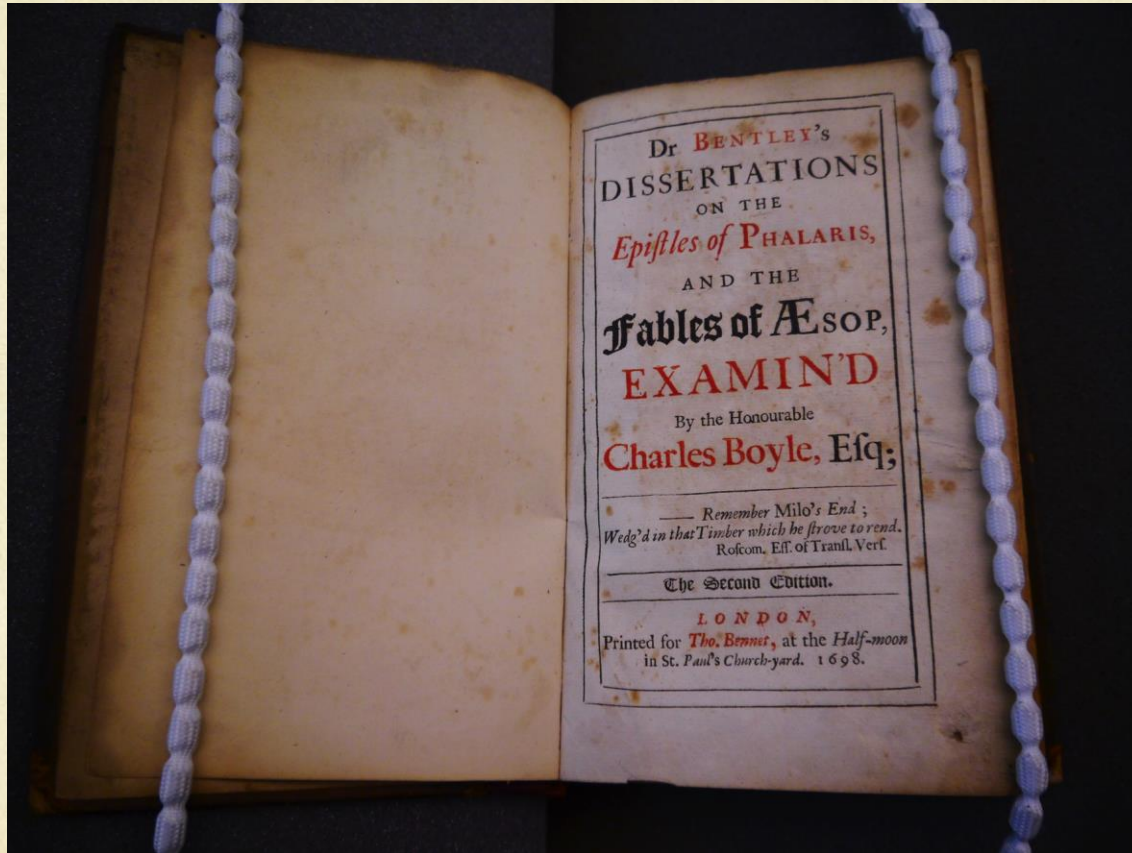
Charles Boyle (1674-1731)



Richard Bentley (1662-1742)



# Dr Bentley's Dissertation, Examin'd (1698)





# Boyle vs Bentley (1698)

... Dead some Measures  
... give himself that insufferable  
... acking their Reputation and  
... n hopes that no-body will be  
... h to stand up in their behalf,  
... those, who cannot speak for  
... e has defy'd Phalaris, and us'd  
... ly, under the assurance, as he  
... ve is out of his Reach \*: Many  
... emies thought the same thing;  
... their Vain Confidence after-  
... ll. Dr Bentley is perhaps by  
... ill suddenly be satisfied, that  
... sum'd a little too much upon  
... ut 'twill be too late to Repent,  
... to Bellow.

A Short Account of  
**Dr BENTLEY,**  
By way of  
**INDEX.**

**D**R Bentley's true Story of the MS prov'd  
false by the testimonies of

_____ Mr Bennet.	Pag. 6
_____ Mr Gibson.	P. 7
_____ Dr King.	P. 8
_____ Dr Bentley.	P. 19

Dr Bentley's civil usage of Mr Boyle. p. 10, p. 7  
& 8. (in Dr King's and Mr Bennet's



# A Short Account of Dr. Bentley

- His Egregious Dulness, p. 74, 106, 119, 135, 136, 137, 241
- His Pedantry, from p. 93 to 99, 144, 216
- His Appeal to Foreigners, p. 13
- His Collection of *Asinine* Proverbs, p. 220
- His familiar acquaintance with Books that he never saw, p. 76, 98, 115, 232

# More Boyle against Bentley

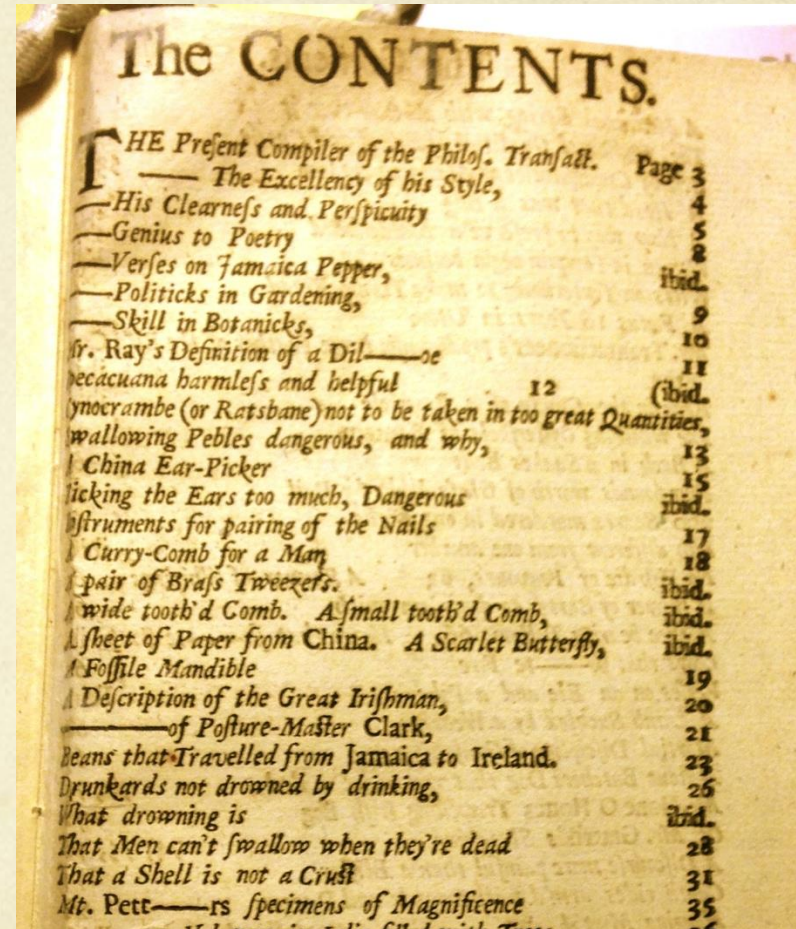
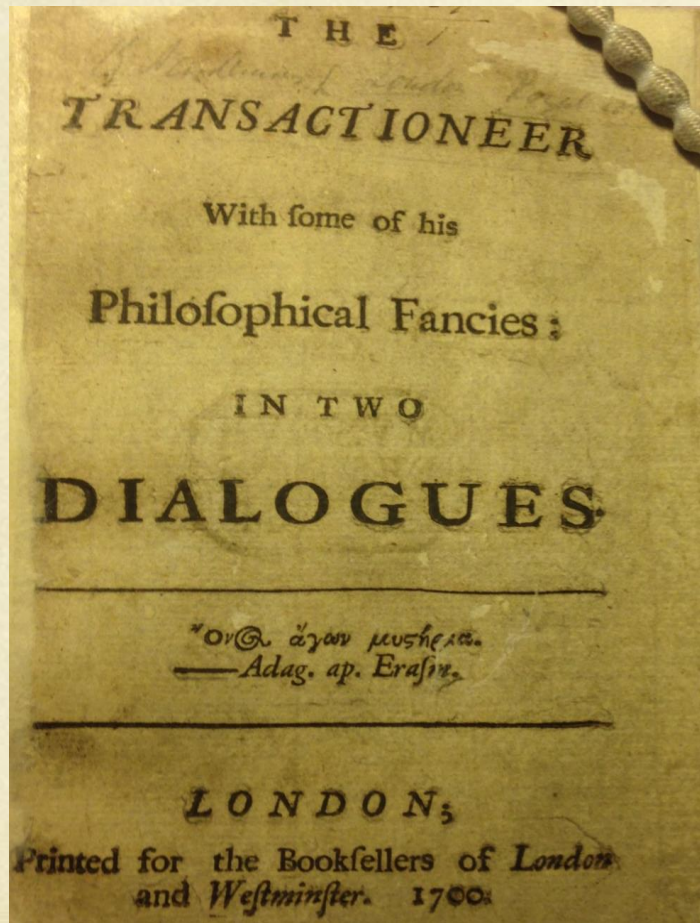
- ‘Second-hand Critic’
- ‘alphabetical learning’
- ‘[Bentley’s book has] all the Pomp and Show of Learning, without the Reality’
- ‘any person, by the help of Leisure and Lexicons, [can] set up for a Critic’
- ‘I take *Index-hunting* to be [...] the lowest Diversion a Man can betake himself to’



“These are the men who pretend to understand a book by scouting through the *index*, as if a traveller should go about to describe a *palace*, when he had seen nothing but the privy.” [Jonathan Swift, *Mechanical Operation of the Spirit* (1704)]



# William King, *The Transactioneer* (1700)





# *The Transactioneer* (1700)

“In my Itinerary from London to Margaret Island and thence most by the Sea-shore to the Lands-End, to observe what Plants each Part produced. Between Pentsants and Macketjew, lived one *Charles Worth* an *Apothecary*, who causing a Pye to be made of the said Poppy – and eating of the said Poppy Pye, whilst hot, was presently taken with such a kind of a Dilirium, as made him fancy that most that he saw was Gold, and calling for a Chamber-pot, being a White Earthen one, after having purged by stool into it, he broke it into pieces, and bid the by-standers to save them, for they were all Gold. [...] But these were not all the Effects of *Papaver Corniculatum*. For, the Man and Maid Servants, having also eat of the same Pye, strip’d themselves quite naked, so danced one against another a long time. [...] The Mistriss, who was gone to Market, coming home, and saying How now? What is here to do? The Maid turned her brich against her, and purging stoutly, said, There, Mistriss, is Gold for you.”

“*Charles Worth* his man and Maid, all merrily besh-t. p. 39.”

# The CONTENTS.

- “A China Ear-Picker. p. 15.”
- “Picking the Ears too much, Dangerous. *ibid.*”
- “That Men can’t swallow when they’re dead. p. 28.”
- “Hoggs that sh-te Soap. p. 66.”
- “Cows that sh-te Fire. p. 67.”
- “Mr. *Ray*’s Definition of a Dil-oe. p. 11”



# Bromley and Addison

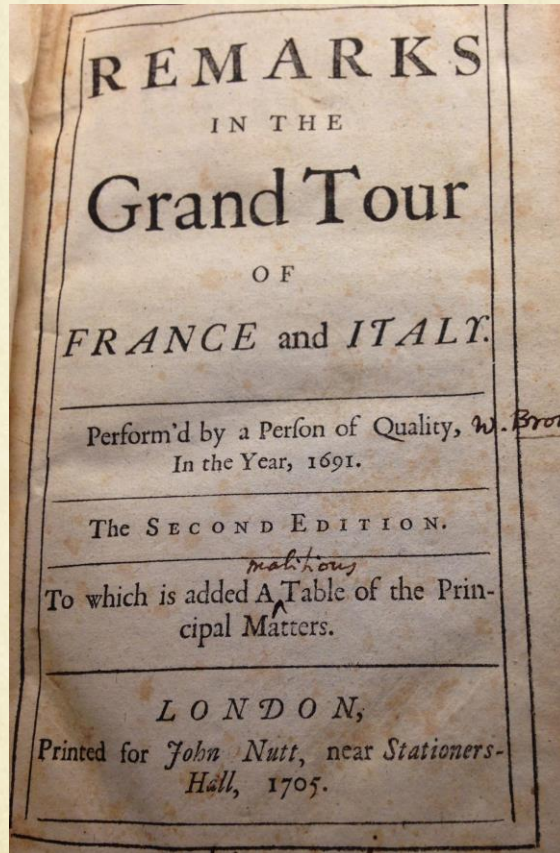


William Bromley (1663-1732)



Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

William Bromley, *Remarks in the  
Grand Tour*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1705)





**C**HATHAM, where and how situated,  
viz. on the other Side Rochester Bridge,  
though commonly reported to be on this  
Side, Pag. 1

Secretary Secretary of the Church of Canterbury

Naples the Capital City of the Kingdom of Naples,  
p. 195

Carpioni a Fish in the Lake di Guarda, by the Si-  
militude of the Fish and of the Name, the Author  
much questions if they are not the same with our  
Carps, p. 50

The Author kiss'd the Pope's Slipper, and had his Bles-  
sing, though known to be a Protestant; but not a  
Word of Religion, p. 149



William Bromley, *Remarks in the  
Grand Tour*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1705)

The S E C O N D E D I T I O N .

*malicious*  
To which is added A Table of the Prin-  
cipal Matters.

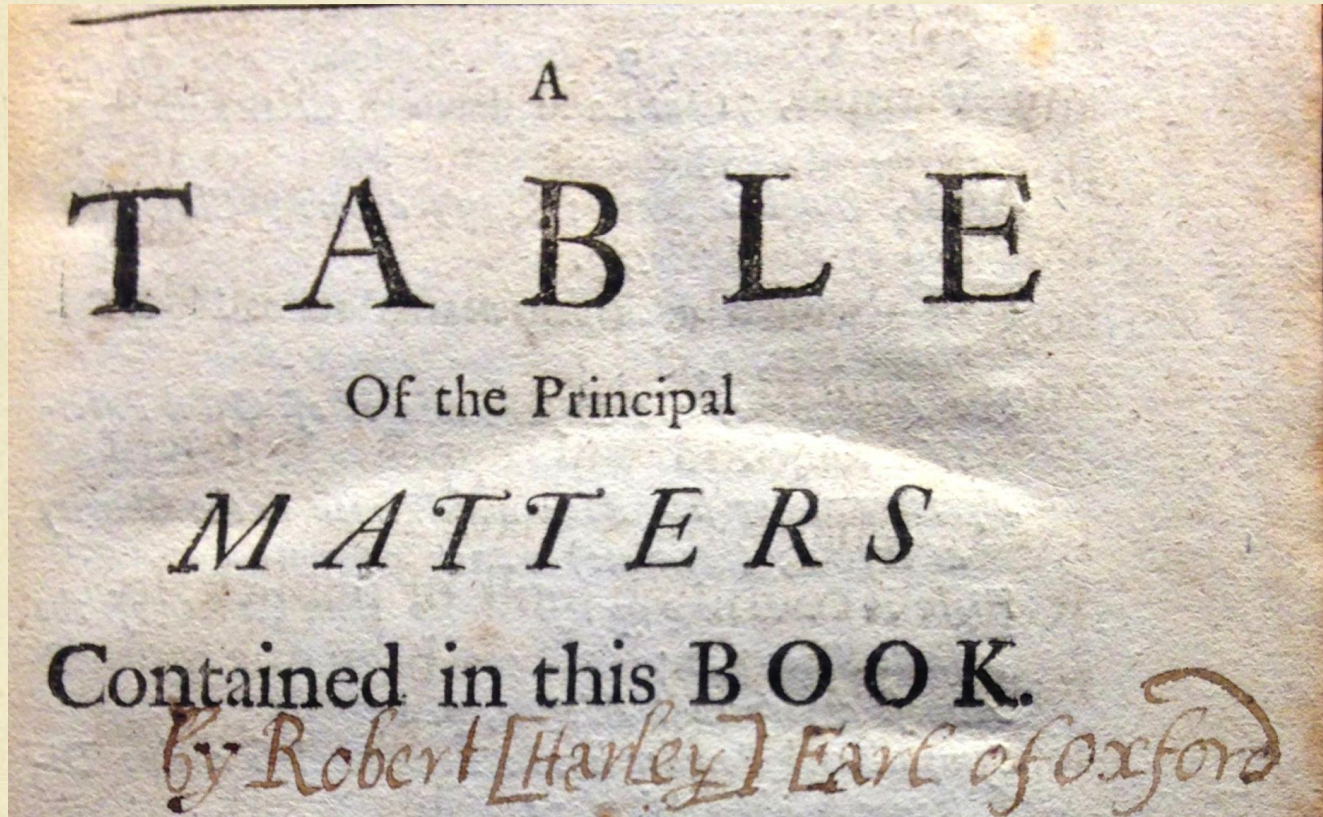


## Bromley's annotations in the second edition of his travelogue

“This edition of these Travels is a specimen of the good-nature, and good manners of the Whigs, and I have reason to believe of one in the Ministry (very conversant in this sort of calumny,) for the sake of publishing ‘*the Table of principal Matters, &c.*’ to expose me. [...] This was a very malicious proceeding.”



William Bromley, *Remarks in the Grand Tour*,  
2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1705)





# Addison's *Remarks on Italy* (1705)

A TABLE of the principal  
Matters contained in Mr.  
*Addison's* Remarks on fe-  
veral Parts of *Italy*, &c.  
in the Years 1701, 1702,  
1703.

# Indexes to Addison's *Remarks on Italy* (1705)

- “Water is of great Use when a Fire chances to break out. 443.”
- “*Same* us'd as an Adjective Relative without any Antecedent. *Send him to School again.* 20, 21.”
- “Have went. *Used as the Præterperfect Tense Subjunctive of the Verb to go.* *Fetch me the Rod.* 240.”
- “The author has not yet seen any Gardens in *Italy* worth taking notice of. *No matter.* 59.”



## Preface to one of the Addison indexes

“I do not however despair of its finding a place, (as it is an Index) in the most Letter'd, Renowned and *Humane* Dr. *Bentley's* Library. 'Twill be of singular use to him in his next Controversy; for tho' there is not one word in it of *Phalaris's* Epistles, yet it will be as Applicable to that, or any other Argument, as a great many of the Books he has quoted in his Polite and refin'd *Dissertation*.”

# Laurence Echard (c.1670-1730)

“The included Picture answers mighty well on the Face and Wigg, only some few think that the highest and middle Part of the Forehead want a small amount of covering from the Wigg. But I cannot say I am of that Opinion. I think indeed that the Hands, and some of the lower Parts of the Cut, still want finishing.”

Letter to Jacob Tonson, Sr, 30 Dec. 1719  
[British Library Add MS 28275: 78]



Instant, with full satisfaction. The included Picture answers mighty well on the Face and Wigg, only some few think that the highest and middle Part of the Forehead wants a small Degree of covering from the Wigg. But I cannot say I am of that Opinion. I think indeed that the Hands, and some of the lower Parts of the Cut, still want finishing. — I thought to have oblig'd you with



# John Oldmixon (1673-1742)

“This Day I send the Index to Dr Eachard to my Wife, where I can say have been particularly serviceable to You, but I shall wave the Reasons for fear of offence. Tis very Large and if I demanded 12gs for it would be little compared to what I had for the Index to Kennets 3 Voll. 35l. pd me by Nicolson. This I am sure is better in proportion, and I was 3 hard Weeks about it. *Under 10l. I am positive not to take.* [...] Pray let me have the Books I wrote for & the Third Vollume of Eachard to do that Index also. [...] You shall have ye other next Week well done. That now sent has cost me a great deal of Pains & richly deserves 12l. it being but a 3d Part of what I find for Kennets of so stingy a Creature as Nicolson.”

Letter to Jacob Tonson, Sr, 9 Nov. 1717

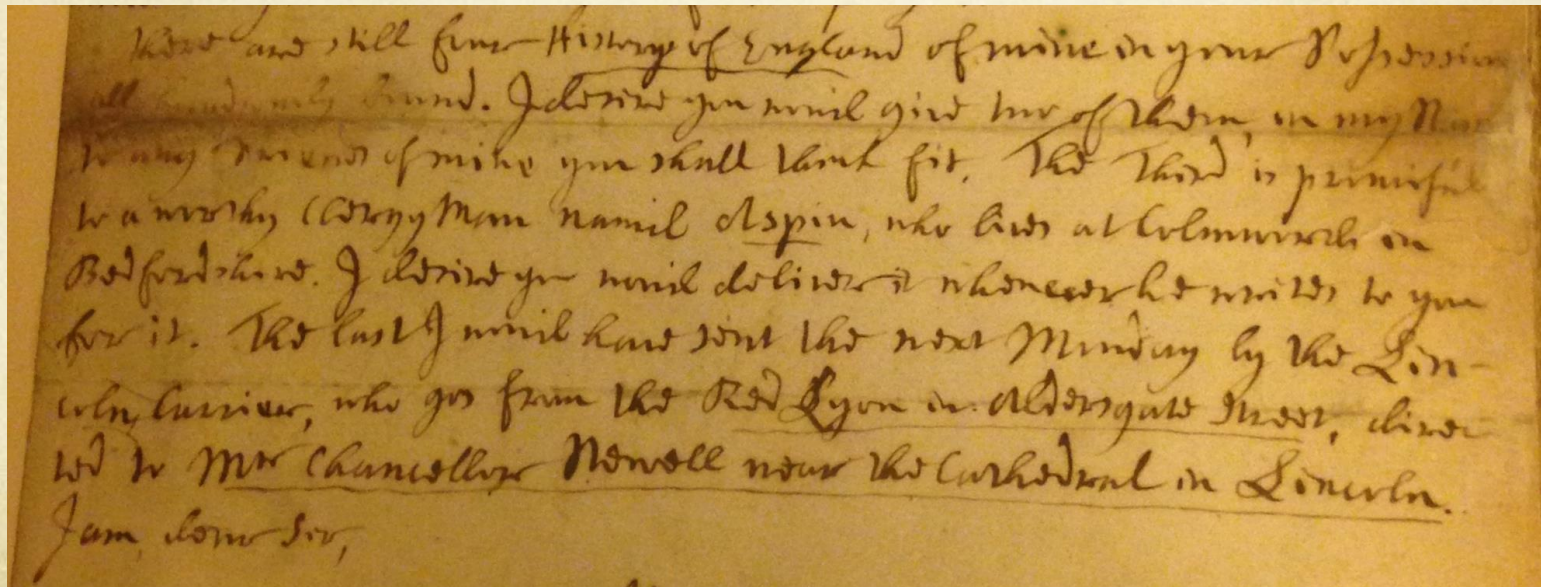
[Edinburgh University Library, MS Lai.II.425.131]



“There are still four *Historys of England* of mine in your Possession all handsomely bound. I desire you will give two of them, in my Name, to any Friends of mine you shall think fit. The third is promised to a worthy Clergyman named *Aspin*, who lives at *Colmworth* in *Bedfordshire*. I desire you will deliver it whenever he writes to you for it. The last I will have sent the next Monday by the *Lincoln Courier*, who goes from the *Red Lyon* in *Aldersgate Street*, delivered to *Mr Chancellor Newell* near the *Cathedral* in *Lincoln*.”

Laurence Echard, Letter to Jacob Tonson, Sr, 22 June 1720

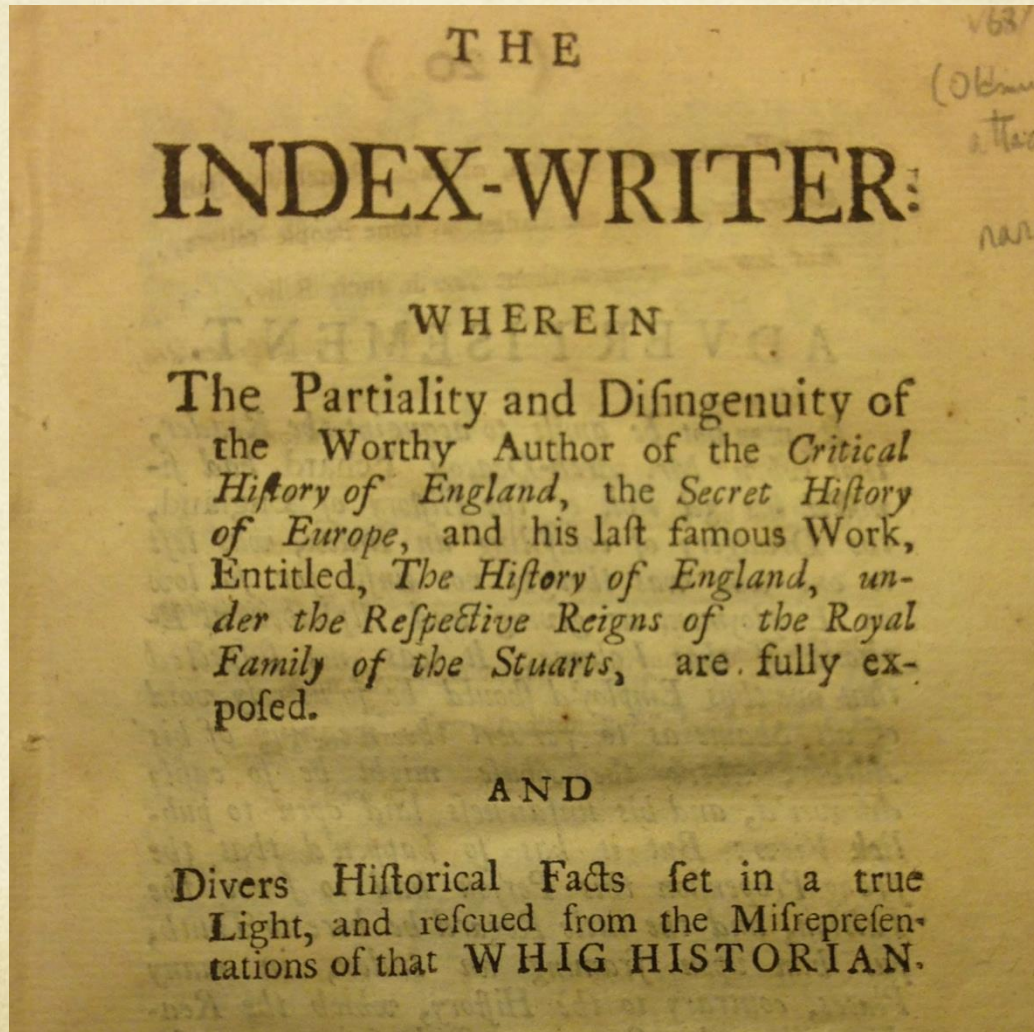
[British Library Add MS 28275: 108]



There are still four *Historys of England* of mine in your Possession  
all handsomely bound. I desire you will give two of them, in my Name  
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for it. The last I will have sent the next Monday by the *Lin-*  
*coln Courier*, who goes from the *Red Lyon* in *Aldersgate Street*, deliv-  
er'd to *Mr Chancellor Newell* near the *Cathedral* in *Lincoln*.  
I am, Dear Sir,



# The Index-Writer (1729)



THE  
INDEX-WRITER:

WHEREIN

The Partiality and Disingenuity of  
the Worthy Author of the *Critical  
History of England*, the *Secret History  
of Europe*, and his last famous Work,  
Entitled, *The History of England, un-  
der the Respective Reigns of the Royal  
Family of the Stuarts*, are fully ex-  
posed.

AND

Divers Historical Facts set in a true  
Light, and rescued from the Misrepresen-  
tations of that WHIG HISTORIAN.



## ADVERTISEMENT.

*It may not be amiss to acquaint the Reader, that when Mr. Arch-Deacon Echard had finish'd his 3d Vol. of the History of England, the Drudgery of compiling an Index, was left to one who was thought not unfit for so low an Employment as giving and Alphabetical Epitome of that Volume: It was not suspected that one thus Employ'd should be so utterly void of all Shame as to pervert the meaning of his Author, where the Abuse might be so easily discover'd, and his unfairness laid open to publick View: But it has so happen'd that the strong Propension this Person had to serve the Faction, and the little Regard he bore to Truth, put him upon framing an Index, in many Places, contrary to the History, which the Reader will, to his Surprize, find giving one Account, and the Index another: This unfair Practice is the Subject of the following Tract.*



*Echard*: “[they] were brought from Newgate to the King’s-Bench-Bar; where being ask’d, why Execution should not be awarded against them, in regard they stood attainted by Outlawry of High-Treason, for conspiring the Death of King Charles the II. and having nothing to say that could avail them, the Court made a Rule that they should both be Executed the Friday following, and accordingly they were then hang’d.”

*Pamphleteer*: “I don’t here charge the *Index*-writer with saying what is in Terms false, but for suppressing the true Cause of their being hang’d without Tryal, *viz.* That they stood attainted by Outlawry, and on that Account had by Law forfeited all Right and Title to it.”

*Index*: “*Nelthorp, Richard*, a Lawyer hang’d without a Tryal in King James’s Time.”

“*Ayloff, John*, hang’d without a Tryal in King James’s Reign.”

*Echard*: “As to the Warming pan, it was reply’d, that it had been impossible to put a New-born Child, *cum secundinis*, in the narrow Compass of a Warming-pan without stifling it.”

*Index*: “Warming-pan, very useful to King James’s Queen.”

*Pamphleteer*: “Now here the Fellow sneers at a Lady of sublime Quality, and at the same time ridicules his Author; and tho’ this envenom’d Writer had no regard to Majesty, one would think, as an hireling, he might have shewn some to the Person who paid him: [...] His Master [...] is far from being ridiculous, when ’tis considered that a Warming-pan is usually about 7 Inches or 7 and a half over, and a New-born Child in Length about 16 Inches.”



## Oldmixon, *Memoirs of the Press* (1742)

“*Echard's History of England*, a poor Copy of the Earl of *Clarendon's*, had treated the glorious Struggle by Parliament in *Forty-two*, as a flagrant *Rebellion*; of Consequence the Struggle in *Eighty-eight* must be carry'd on by *Rebels*, and the turning out of *James II.* by such High-Church Doctrine, was as criminal as the beheading of *Charles I.* Such bold and false Allegations or Insinuations in *Echard's History*, founded on those in the Lord *Clarendon's*, could not but keep alive that Ardour in my Breast, which I ever felt in the Whig Cause, *Liberty* and the *Reform'd Religion.*” (35)