

Introduction

The digest-sized paperbacks are very much the forgotten step-children of the American paperback revolution. The earliest series predate the advent of Pocket Books by two years. They were published in parallel with the smaller mass-market paperbacks, flourishing even amid the paper rationing of World War II. They were distributed almost exclusively through newsstands, very few being sold through real bookstores. Like the magazines whose pipelines they shared, most were issued in numerical sequence, one at a time. The more reliably scheduled series, like the Mercury and Hillman lines, were probably flushed from display when a new volume appeared. The more irregular series, especially during the war, probably stayed on display until they eventually sold out. The print runs were probably competitive with the mass-market imprints, 75,000 to 100,000 copies at a time; the big difference was that publishers like Pocket Books went back to press again and again while digests rarely saw a second printing.

The biggest liability that the digests had was that too many of them were abridged, making them a poor bargain compared to the unabridged books being published by Pocket Books, et. al., for the same price. Most of the digest series fell by the wayside during the paperback glut of the early 1950s. Of the few that still hung on, only the Mercury Press imprints survived the collapse of the American News Company in 1957, and those changed into magazines shortly thereafter. Five years later the Mercury Mystery imprint was revived to publish one last book, thus bracketing this index by issuing both the first and last books listed herein.

The overwhelming majority of the digest series were each devoted to a single genre of fiction. While a few series featured a mix of genres only a couple, such as Reader's Choice Library and some Avon series, featured "mainstream" fiction. The largest genre published was detective fiction (almost 1100 books); western fiction was much less prolific (circa 325 books), and science fiction was marginally on the radar. Almost as prolific as the mysteries was a long-defunct genre called "love novels," with circa 925 books. This designation seems to have been an invention of the lending library publishers and was carried over to most of the digest reprints. Love novels were a form of romance that, unlike the squeaky-clean nurse novels that characterized the traditional romance, featured women who had sex without benefit of marriage and carried on in other unconventional ways. I have long suspected that "love novels" were intended as romances for men. This label withered away in the late 1950s and many of the novels that were issued under that label as digests were reprinted by mass-market imprints in the 1960s as contemporary or "modern" novels.

Among collectors the digests have long been recognized as, collectively, the hardest to find of the so-called "vintage paperbacks." They also have the poorest documentation, being omitted completely from Robert Reginald's *Cumulative Paperback Index*. The various paperback price guides have included them, but due to their extreme rarity, some of those listings are still incomplete and the complex histories of some of them have yet to be untangled.

It was because of this vacuum of detailed information on the digests that I began to compile my own database. It was begun more than 20 years ago as a personal project, with no thought of publication. At first I computerized the data on a small group of publishers. Over the years I expanded the scope of my files until I had at least some data on all the digest-sized paperbacks. My sources were originally the books themselves, such as I owned, and the ads therein. I filled out the lists with data collected from ads in fanzines and the various price guides that appeared over the years. My research really took off about three years ago when I finally got regular access to the Internet. After mining data from the World Catalog and various dealers' listings on Abebooks and similar sites, I got more serious about researching the antecedents of the paperback editions. I made a point of looking up every digest title in the *National Union Catalog*. If I didn't find a hardcover listed there I consulted the *Cumulative Book Index*, which had the added benefit of being searchable by title. If I couldn't find a title in either book, I started looking for an original that it might have been retitled from. I made a determined effort to verify data on the paperbacks from as many sources as possible, particularly after noticing what appear to be "check entries" in one of the price guides. At this point there are still 22 volumes, mostly westerns, that I have not been able to confirm from any other source.

I made a concerted effort to examine the *Catalog of Copyright Entries* for all "original" publications. Some publishers, particularly Avon, made a point of copyrighting their reprints, usually referencing the cover art. I have augmented the entries in the publisher list by giving the full publication date reported in the *CCE*. I have undoubtedly missed some; some years' volumes are poorly organized and difficult to use and not all volumes were available to me.

An additional research tool that is not well-known is *The American New Trade Journal*, an organ of the largest American magazine distributor. It was usually published monthly, except during World War II, when it rarely appeared at all. This magazine had regular features that highlighted new magazines and book imprints, and contained profiles of many publishers, as well as tidbits of trade gossip. I was fortunate to get access to a largely complete set on microfilm and mined it quite heavily for info on the digest publishers that were distributed by ANC.

Unfortunately, after all the research described above this is still very much a Work in Progress. It sometimes seems that the more I learn, the less I know. I have been persuaded to post this index online, both to make the information that I have collected available to all and with the hope that other collectors may be inspired to help fill in the gaps.

The data are sorted into three sections.

1) Index by Publisher

This section groups the books by imprint. In some cases where a sequence had different imprints, and the variances are few, all the volumes are listed together and the minor imprints are cross-referenced. If a sequence had two substantial blocks under different imprints the imprints are detailed separately and cross-referenced.

If books have no imprint, then the publishing company itself is referenced, in abbreviated form, in brackets; e.g., [Hanro]. All such books are grouped under "No Imprint" at the beginning of the Publisher Index.

Under each publisher/imprint the following information is given:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Publishers: | All publishing companies that issued the imprint, with all publication addresses, as given in the books. |
| Distributors: | Usually identified from the distributor's marks on the covers. |
| Format: | All books are understood to be digest-sized and squarebound unless otherwise noted. Such notes may cover an entire imprint or isolated volumes. |
| Prices: | The cover prices during the run, in US currency only. |
| Comments: | Annotations regarding related imprints or publishing companies, including what little is known (to me) about the publishers. May contain conclusions based on examinations of the books themselves, as well as deductions based on other research. Also notes such oddities as the compiler feels may be of interest. |

I have attempted to document the point at which features like addresses or prices change, but it will be obvious to the user that I have not succeeded in all instances. Any place where a range of book numbers in the headnotes has end points in parentheses indicates a research gap that needs to be filled.

I suspect that the publishers stated for several of the more obscure imprints are not the actual publishers. In order to circumvent the paper rationing during World War II, a would-be publisher had to locate an existing publisher who wasn't using its full paper quota and use them as a "front." The constantly changing publishers that are listed in the Eerie Series and the early Bonded Books probably reflect the company

whose paper quota had been latched onto for each book. In some such instances the actual publisher may never be known.

Distributors' marks were not common on books or magazines until after World War II. Such identifications may be a useful research tool for demonstrating links between imprints or documenting changes in distribution strategies, so I have noted all the ones I've seen. The following abbreviations have been noted, not all of which have been identified:

ANC	American News Company
FDC	
ID	
IND	Independent News Company
K	Kable News Company
LN	Leader News
LNC	[same as above?]
PDC	Publishers Distributing Corp.
S*M	

American News was the dominant magazine distributor in the US during this period. Besides delivering magazines to newsstands nationwide ANC also distributed hardcover books, including lending-library imprints, and sold subscriptions for mail-only magazines. They had warehouses in most major cities and also owned a chain of large newsstands in those same cities. Publishers who did not use ANC would be forced to find a way to deal with the hundreds of local distributors that operated as an alternative distribution system. One could either negotiate with all of them individually or use one of the smaller national distributors like IND as a middleman. Many of these smaller distributors may have been only regional in scope; it is not uncommon to see books or magazines with more than one distributor's mark on the same copy. Of the publishers covered by this index, it is believed that Hillman and Universal acted as their own distributors. It is my understanding that both Independent News and Leader News were owned by Harry Donenfeld or his associates and that they used two distributors to keep his comic book line (DC) separate from his other, less respectable, publications.

ANC went out of business in 1957, taking many magazine and book publishers with it. As the independent distributors scrambled to grab the major titles that ANC had serviced, many of the smaller publishers got squeezed out of the distribution pipeline and died off.

The book listings for each imprint are in numerical order and give the author(s), title, and publication date for each book, the latter in the most detail known to the compiler. An unnumbered book may have a parenthetical number if one appeared in the publisher's ads, or if it fills an obvious hole in the run; otherwise, the designation "un" appears. Unless there is some notation to the contrary the user should assume that any list of unnumbered books is in random order.

Such pieces of the date that do not appear in the book itself are given in various kind of brackets. More specific dating can often be found in forecasts, in prior volumes, or in a related series or magazine, as well as in printing histories given in later printings. These are considered primary sources, and such augmentations are given in parentheses, like this:

(1953)
(June 1953)
(June) 1953
(6/12 1953)
(6/12) 1953

Information in square brackets comes from secondary sources, such as the *Catalog of Copyright Entries*, the *New York Times*' "Books Published Today" feature, and printing histories in later publishers' reprints.

A considerable effort has been made to create timelines for most of the more prolific publishers, and some bracketed dates are based on the identification of a contemporary book whose dating is known.

Examples:

[June 1943]
[6/12 1953]
[6/12] 1953

Curly brackets indicate that I have made an educated guess that may be subject to confirmation by further research, as so: {1953}

For instances where I have not seen the book and cannot get an accurate determination from secondary sources, but I am fairly sure that the book itself gives a date, the date appears as: []. All books that are undated and remain undatable have the abbreviation "n.d." in the date space.

I have left the date field blank only in cases where I have no clue whether an unseen book is likely to be dated or not and cannot make an educated guess.

Although it is tempting to use the information at hand to fill out the list of, say, the Mercury Mysteries with estimated months of publication for all the volumes, I have decided to let the existing information stand on its own, and let readers make their own extrapolations. If I can clean them up a bit I may append the above mentioned timelines to a future version of this index.

An additional resource exists that can be useful as a research tool but cannot be used as a definitive source for exact dating. One occasionally encounters copies of books with dates rubber-stamped on them somewhere. We cannot be sure exactly who stamped it, but it was most likely done by a distributor or newsstand as a form of inventory control. The digests in particular were treated like magazines by both newsdealers and distributors. Since they had no obvious "cover dates" and, in some cases, no dates at all, a newsdealer might stamp one when it arrived so that he would know how long it had been on display and when it was appropriate to ship it back. I have mentioned in the headnotes such date stamps as I have seen; they can give at least an approximate idea of when a specific book or an undated series was issued.

For most of the digest publishers there is no evidence that any of their publications had more than one printing. During WWII, books and magazines tended to sit on newsstands until all the copies sold out, often for months. There was little opportunity for smaller publishers to reprint a title, no matter how popular. With the end of paper rationing after the war, the newsstands were flooded with new magazines and book series, lowering overall sales and making it difficult to sell out any given printing. Most of the later publishers, like Venus Books or Croydon Books, changed the book number when reprinting a title. Thus every printing was a separate edition and the printings can be documented by listing all the book numbers.

There are two or three documented instances, mentioned in the headnotes, where multiple printings have been identified. Several others have been suggested by the printing histories in later Pocket Book and Bantam Book editions, but none of these has been documented as yet. Whether these represent the tip of an iceberg is still uncertain. The most obvious way to identify a later printing is to examine any ads at the back of the book. The list of prior volumes should not have numbers significantly higher than the particular book's own number. I have examined the ads in all the volumes available to me and only found one book where the ads suggested that it might be a later printing.

2) Index by Author:

The books in this section are sorted by author, last name first, then by title. Anonymous volumes, mostly anthologies, are listed at the beginning of the Author Index.

I tend to follow the usual conventions in parsing an author's name, though I have added a couple features of my own devising. An author's name is given in the fullest version known to me, with the parts that actually appear in the bylines in boldface. Parts of the name that may vary from book to book are given in parentheses. Parts of the name that are known but never appear in the bylines are given in square brackets. If one of the given names used in the byline is a nickname, the real name is given in angle brackets. The year of birth (and death as applicable) are given along with an indication of the author's nationality. The latter is not a standard annotation and has been difficult to document for the more obscure authors. An additional annotation may appear in brackets if the language in which the books were written does not match the nationality. I have indicated, where known to me, the birth names of any female writers who wrote under their married names. I have also indicated the obverse by annotating married names to some female writers who wrote under their birth names. This annotation appears in square brackets preceded by the word *mariée*. I compiled a lot more such information than I've actually used, confining myself largely to names that appear in copyright notices, or are the names under which the author is found in standard reference works like *The National Union Catalog* or *Contemporary Authors*.

Examples:

Christie, Agatha [Mary] [Clarissa], [née Miller], [mariée Mallowan]
Williamson, Jack <John> [Stewart]

The personal data are drawn from a wide variety of sources and in cases where sources disagree, every attempt has been made to ascertain which is correct. In a few cases where I have not been able to reconcile these differences I have, for now, left out the disputed data. Research in these areas is continuing. If an author is not known to be deceased, a one-space blank appears in the death date spot. If an author is known to be deceased but his death date is unknown, four blank spaces appear in that spot. Any author born before 1908 is assumed to be dead. If a birth year is not known but an obituary gives the author's age at death, that age is given parenthetically after the death date.

All reliable pseudonym identifications are included. In many cases the pseudonym identified is the only byline under which that author appears in this index, and there may not be any entry under the real name. If an author does appear under more than one byline, a full set of cross-references are given under the real name to all the pseudonyms used, even if the real name was not one of the bylines. In a small number of instances, authors well-known under their real names appear in this index only under obscure pseudonyms. In an attempt to be as informative as possible I have, in several such cases, inserted an entry under the real name with a cross-reference to the pseudonym.

All the editions of a given book are gathered together and listed sequentially in one spot; any additional titles used also appear in the author listing, but only as cross-references to full listing. Generally the listing appears under whichever title or byline most closely matches the previous hardcover edition. Paperback originals are grouped under the first title and byline used. All other things being equal I have generally tried to list a book's multiple editions chronologically but I have occasionally shuffled the order if it made a complex history easier to read.

The citation of imprint, book number and date (year only) appears on the right side of the page. In between the title and the citation is a parenthetical annotation which supplies the following information:

original title and/or byline,
original publisher and year of publication,
type of book, and
state of the text.

The vast majority of these digests were reprints of books previously published in hardcover. A number of books are known to have been previously published in Britain, without any prior US editions. These were often described as "original" publications, as most US publishers do not consider such books to be reprints. I have tracked down as many of the latter as I could, but such books were often retitled and are difficult to identify. In several instances a novel may have been reprinted directly from a magazine without an intervening hardcover. These were not always acknowledged and are admittedly easier to identify among the Science Fiction titles than any of the other genres.

For the prior publication data, I have usually cited either first US hardcover edition or most recent prior US edition under the same title, with the same text or contents. If there was no prior US edition I have cited the first edition in country of origin. This information is skimpier for older public domain reprints, particularly for foreign books where the exact translation reprinted may not be known.

Other forms of citation as are follows:

(mag, 1953) or (anth, 1953) - If the only prior pub is magazine or anthology; no further details are given.

(?, 1946) - If prior publication is indicated but details are unknown

(original) - if a book is completely new

(original, from movie) - If book is adapted from a movie script, etc.

(from *Original Title*) or (with *Other Title*) - if a novel is excerpted from a larger volume

All books are understood to be novels unless otherwise indicated. The label "coll" indicates two or more separate stories by the same author(s). The label "anth" indicates two or more separate stories with different authorship. The abbreviation "[coll]" is used a few times to indicate two or more previously published stories masquerading as a novel. "NF" indicates a non-fiction book.

I used a certain amount of abbreviation in citing the previous publishers. Well-known publishers like Random House and Phoenix Press, for example, are cited as Random and Phoenix respectively. More obscure publishers may be cited in full. Multi-named companies, such as Duell, Sloan & Pearce, are cited in full, as are all the versions of Doubleday that involved partners. On the other hand, publishers like William Godwin, Inc. are cited simply as Godwin. Non-US publishers are cited with a country (almost all are [UK]); any not so cited are American publishers.

A number of the books herein do not bear the same titles they did as hardcovers. Not all of them bother to mention it. I have supplied all original titles, where known. A title given in square brackets was not acknowledged, as far as I know, on the reprint. A few titles given in curly brackets are educated guesses on my part or reflect my ignorance as to whether the book itself acknowledges the retitle.

Examples of these citations include:

acknowledged status:

(Original Title)

(Original Title by Original Byline)

(Original Title [by Original Byline])

unacknowledged status:

([Original Title])

([Original Title by Original Byline])

status unverified:

({Original Title})

There are still 20+ books that are believed to be reprints but for which I have not been able to establish the original publication data. See the notes under "Scans" later in this introduction.

A depressingly large number of these digests were abridged, usually to fit in a standard number of pages. These vary from minor trims here and there to massive deletions of pages at a time. While many of the volumes covered readily acknowledged their abridgment, many others were abridged without acknowledgment. The phrase "a full length novel" that appears on the cover of most Hillman digests is extremely misleading. I was able to compare about a dozen of these Hillman editions against other editions and in all but one instance they were conspicuously abridged. The early Mercury Books, when they were mostly mainstream novels, are silent on the subject; comparisons of several of those to other editions found cuts as long as 2 to 3 pages between one paragraph and the next. Apparently even the phrase "a complete \$2 novel" that appears on some books is not reliable; similar text comparisons found cuts in books with that description as well.

When describing collections or anthologies, the notation of abridgment indicates only that the paperback has fewer items than the original and is not a comment on the completeness of the individual contents.

Examples of citations:

acknowledged status:

abr (includes books described as "edited")

c/u

rev (includes books described as "adapted")

unacknowledged status:

[abr]

Many books, particularly the 1950s love novels, assert that the texts have been "revised." I have not had an opportunity to compare any such reprints to the previous editions so I do not know whether this is really any different than "abridged." A number of the original novels issued by the Hanro group of publishers were later reissued with revised texts. I did comparisons of several of those and the changes were often minor. I suspect that this publisher's revisions, particularly on the reprints of old hardcovers, were solely for the purpose of getting a new copyright. Some of their original novels that were later revised had originally been published before they began registering their copyrights.

3) Index by Title:

Books are listed in this section without any publication details. It is simply a cross-reference from Titles to Authors. Titles are listed in alphabetical order, with leading *A*, *An*, and *The* suppressed. Titles that begin with a numeral are listed twice, once in a numerical group before "A" and again as if spelled out alphabetically. A second section lists alphabetically the original titles of books that appear in the index only under retitles.

Scans

In order to facilitate help from other collectors. I have scanned in the first text pages of several reprints whose original titles are still unidentified. I scanned in a few other pages to demonstrate the source of my educated guesses about several more. In addition to the titles already scanned I need firm data on the following books, including text scans if the books themselves are uninformative:

Backstage Sin	Lewis, Dana
Bad Girls' Club	Davids, William
Brand of the Outlaw	Lehman, Paul Evan
Come Sin with Me	Jordan, Gail
Dance Hall Girl	Lawrence, Ann
Dangerous Trade	Thornton, Charles
Man-Crazy Hussy	Semple, Gordon
Made for Loving	Arthur, William
Plaything	Semple, Gordon
Powder Smoke Blood	Starr, Clay
Range War at Keno	Lehman, Paul Evan
Reckless Virgin	Watkins, Glen
Shayne Dame, The	Harragan, Steve
Smugglers' Range	Floren, Lee
Two-Gun Texan	Shappiro, Herbert
Vultures of Vacaville, The	Tuttle, W. C.
Wicked	Gates, Eleanor

Pop-up comments

The user will find an occasional "pop-up" comment attached to an entry. These contain additional incidental information that didn't fit easily into the page formats but which I thought might be of interest. Their presence is indicated by a word balloon icon in the right margin; just place your cursor over the icon and the comment will be displayed.

Omissions

1) Publishers

The following Imprints have not been seen by me and their inclusion has been deferred until I can get full information on them:

AMERICAN LIBRARY
 ARCHER (See note on Leisure Library, below.)
 ATOMIC BOOK
 BOBLEY BOOK
 FIESTA
 HART
 LOVE ROMANCES SERIES
 MERCURY LIBRARY
 PENNANT MYSTERY
 YOGI MYSTERY

publishers without imprints:

David Lucom
 Dorene Publishing Co., Inc.
 Edell Company
 J. P. Feiner
 Joe Moss Mystery
 Manhattan Fiction Publishing
 Padell Book & Magazine Co.
 R.W.

LEISURE LIBRARY

I have seen a couple of these and have a complete list of the titles issued. These are all reprints of obscure British paperbacks and many of them were retitled. I still lack identifications for about a third of them. If anyone can provide scans of the first text pages for most or all of #s 10, 11, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, or 23 I will add this imprint to the index.

I have the same problem with Archer Books, four of which are similarly unidentified. In this instance I am further hampered by not having seen any volumes personally, and being unable to talk intelligently about a series whose numbering is seriously erratic and may be, at best, variant editions of the British books.

Excluded imprints:

HANDI-BOOKS

Although these are noticeably larger than standard mass-market paperbacks of their day, I do not consider them large enough to qualify as digests.

PRE-FERRED BOOKS

Issued only 2 books, both by the same author, 5 years apart. Appears to be a vanity press and not a mass-market imprint.

REX STOUT MYSTERY

This was the earliest of Avon's magazine-like series. Most volumes carried cover dates and I am inclined to consider it a magazine and so omit it. I am still researching to see how the individual issues were copyrighted. If Avon registered most of them as Books rather than Periodicals, I will probably end up including it in a later edition.

The following imprints, although listed in some price guides as paperbacks, are to the best of my Knowledge magazines and have been deliberately excluded:

BANNER MYSTERIES MOVIE-MYSTERY MAGAZINE

If anyone has information on any of the above series or knows of any additional series that should be included, I would appreciate hearing from you. E-mails sent to me care of the Bookscans website will be forwarded; you can e-mail me directly at kennethr_johnson@yahoo.com or send regular mail to P.O. Box 451, Medford, MA 02155.

2) Series

It is almost *de rigueur* in a checklist of this sort to include annotations of books with series characters. I have found this to be problematic; a large percentage of the books covered are mysteries by minor writers. To verify that a series exists I would have to see not only all the paperbacks but also many of the author's other books as well, a circumstance well-nigh impossible. To cover this ground thoroughly I would have to crib all the series annotations out of Allen Hubin's *Crime Fiction* bibliographies, which is a level of "research" I consider inappropriate. In addition, the only Western series I have knowledge of are the ones detailed in *Twentieth Century Western Writers*; again I would have to crib all the series data and that would still leave unannotated all the western writers not covered by that volume. I have not found a satisfactory solution to this quandry.

3) Artists

The other feature that most collectors would probably expect to see is an index to the cover artists. Again I am hampered from including such a feature because I have not seen enough of the books to be comprehensive in this regard. Far too many of the books have no signatures or printed credits and I have found secondary sources to be unreliable in this matter. I have seen attributions for covers of books I own on which I can find no trace of a signature. It is possible that such annotations derive from artist profiles that have appeared in magazines unseen by me, but I would be reluctant to include such attributions without knowing the source. Additionally, although a large number of Avon's cover artists were identified in copyright registrations, I have seen at least two such books that were signed by a different artist, calling into question how reliable even those data are. A few publishers, such as Venus Books, reused covers on later editions of the same book and sometimes swapped them around onto different books. I would feel obliged to document these reprints, even when the artist is still unknown, but I have again seen too few to report them comprehensively. I would like to include an artist index in a future version and I am continuing research in this area. Help would be appreciated.

Acknowledgments

According to my calculations this index presently lists 2688 books, of which I personally own 980. I accessed another 190 from a number of local sources, including the personal collections of Victor Berch, Robert E. Briney, and Don D'Amassa, as well as the library at the M.I.T. Science Fiction Society, and the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library at Harvard University.

Sixteen hardcovers used for text comparisons were accessed at The Boston Public Library. Another 18 were borrowed from Widener Library at Harvard University. Additional books were either accessed directly at or borrowed through inter-library loan from the following Massachusetts libraries: Concord Free Public Library, Malden Public Library, Salem Public Library, Seekonk Public Library, Taunton Public Library, and Worcester Public Library. Additional research materials, mostly photocopies, were obtained by interlibrary loan from the following out of state libraries: Bowling Green State University Library, Woodruff Library at Emory University, and the Michigan State University Library.

Any work of this scope stands on the shoulders of the giants whose work preceded it. One should not have to "reinvent the wheel" with every new bibliography, and much of the information herein was drawn from standard reference works like the *National Union Catalog* or *Contemporary Authors*. The reliability of some such works is highly variable; the bibliographies in *Twentieth Century Western Writers*, for instance, are particularly dreadful. I have attempted to consult multiple sources whenever possible to improve accuracy.

The voluminous bibliography appended to this index barely suggests how wide the net was cast to find hard information on these books and their authors. Two deficiencies are worth noting. Gary Lovisi compiled and published a book on the "sexy digests" which I have, in my usual bumbling way, not managed to see a copy of. I hope to examine one eventually. Allen J. Hubin has posted to the 'net a large number of addenda to his *Crime Fiction IV* CD-ROM. I have noted some relevant data from these postings, including a number of new pseudonym identifications, but I have, out of courtesy, resisted using them for the time being. Mr. Hubin has done and continues to do an incredible job of documenting the Mystery field and I have too much respect to steal his discoveries as soon as they are posted. I can't help but feel that they should be his "exclusive" for at least a little while before vultures like me harvest the data wholesale.

Several individuals deserve special mention for their efforts on this index. First, to Victor Berch, retired Special Collections Librarian at Brandeis University, for spending his well-deserved retirement lending his expertise to clueless researchers like me. His ability to locate obscure data among the resources at Brandeis, including their many on-line databases, is nothing short of mind-boggling. The personal data in the Author Index would be much sparser without his extraordinary help. It would be remiss of me not to mention as well his colleague, Karen Adler Abramson, the Brandeis Archivist, in whose domain we repeatedly huddled to do our research, often rejoicing loudly at the discovery of ever more trivial data. Her

help in many small ways and her patience in many large ways are greatly appreciated. It's a wonder she still speaks to us.

Second, to Katherine Godfrey, the love of my life, who is a Harvard alum and used her library privileges to borrow both hardcovers and paperbacks for my perusal. She personally examined many non-circulating materials, including some volumes of the Catalog of Copyright Entries, which I could not otherwise access myself. She also proofread all the text in this index, helping me to look much more literate than I actually is.

Third, to the late George Flynn, proofreader *extraordinaire*. Several years ago, at my request, as part of a very different project, George did text comparisons of the Galaxy Novels against their prior hardcover and magazine appearances. I could not have improved upon his work and I have reused it here, regretting only that he was no longer around to help with this project directly.

A special "Thank you" to Jean Berman for the use of her scanner to make the text images that accompany this index.

And last, to Bruce Black, for so many reasons that I can scarcely mention them all. My discovery of his Bookscans database advanced this work immeasurably; his scans allowed me to verify titles, authors, imprints, book numbers, original titles, abridgments and even artists' signatures on books I had no hope of seeing for myself. In addition, he tirelessly dug into his own collection to answer a steady stream of questions about ever more trivial pieces of data that helped me to understand several rare imprints with messy publishing histories. Finally, his own enthusiasm for this index, his offer to host it on his website, and his efforts to transform my random data files into a work of art can never be adequately thanked.

Although I have often railed about the inadequacy and unreliability of many of the secondary resources that were used in compiling this monster, at the end of the day it must stand or fall as my own compilation and whatever errors still abound in it are entirely my own.