# Index

Absurd, the, 40–42
_Acedia_, 165, 169–70
_Acryologia_, 32
Aesthetics, 146–47, 192–97
Agelast, 15
_Alazon_. See Braggarts
Alliteration, 32
Amusement, 65
Animal laughter, 16–17
Anouilh, Jean, 71
_Aponia_, 68
Aquinas, Thomas, 169
Aristotle
  buffoons, 51
  character, 15
  comparing art to comedy, 7
  comparing tragedy and comedy, 9, 40
  courage, 102–3
  happiness, xiii, 65, 68, 70, 76–82, 116, 170
  _katharsis_, 24
  laughter as superiority, 7
  _mimésis_, 161
  truthfulness, 90–91
  See also Great-souled man
Arnold, Matthew, ix–x, 5, 176–77, 192–94
Artificial intelligence, 14–15, 135–36
_Ataraxia_, 69
Austen, Jane, 84
Austin, J. L., 131–33
_Autarkia_, 70
Authenticity, 88–90, 100–101
Ayer, A. J., 131–33
Bad poetry, 113–14
Bakhtin, Mikhail, 35, 86
Balfour, A. J., 194
Banfield, Edward, 159
Bataille, Georges, 41
Bathos, 105
Baudelaire, Charles, 57, 68, 83–84, 194–95, 198–99
Bauhaus, 147–49
Bean, Mr., 24
Beattie, James, 16–17, 22
Bell, Hilaire, 104, 116
Benda, Julien, 116
Bentham, Jeremy, 117, 135
Bergson, Henri, xii, 8–9, 17, 73–74, 79, 110, 127–28, 136, 141–42, 192–93
Bernini, G. L., 67
Biblical laughter, 34, 57–59
Blake, William, 92–93
Blushing, 180
Boileau, Nicholas, 51
_Bômolochos_. See Buffoons
Bradbury, Malcolm, 94–95
Braggarts, 90–92
Brooks, Mel, 111
Browne, Sir Thomas, 59, 116, 159
Brummell, Beau, 110–11
Buffoons, 51, 77
Burke, Edmund, 24, 73, 136–38, 142, 152
Byron, George Gordon, Lord, 27
Caillot, Roger, 26
Camp, 108, 111
Camus, Albert, 15, 89–90
Cardigan, Earl of, 107
Carlyle, Thomas, 139, 184
Carnap, Rudolf, 130–31
Carnival laughter, 34–37
Carroll, Lewis, 39
Castiglione, Baldassare, 187–88
Index
Philosophy of life, x, xii–xv, 64, 71–73
*Phronèsis*. See Practical judgment
Plato, 19, 44, 71–72
allegory of cave, 160
laughter as a signal, 13
laughter as superiority, 7
Playfulness
and aesthetics, 192
as an element of laughter, 17, 25–28
Play on words, 30–33
Plutarch, 69–70
Poe, Edgar Allan, 36–37
Political correctness, 172–77
Pollock, Jackson, 145
Polyseme, 31
Pomerantz, Hart, 120
Pope, Alexander, 20–21, 43, 50, 54, 182
Positive superiority thesis, xi, 4–6, 10–11, 21, 199–200
objections to, 17, 29–46
Posner, Richard, 139–41
Postmodern laughter, 40–42
Practical judgment, 78–79
Prager, Dennis, 118
Presumption, sin of, 169
Pretentiousness, 108, 110–11
Pretentiousness, 87, 101–2
Public goods, 53
Puns, 30–31
Puritans, 165, 176–77
Quignard, Pascal, 188
Rabelais, François, 36–37
Racine, Jean, 11, 189
Radcliffe-Brown, A. R., 184
Rahner, Hugo, 26
Rawls, John, 75
Reading, silent and spoken, 189
Rebus, 31–32
Reciprocal altruism, 53, 180
Reductio ad absurdum, 23
Relative status, 8, 155–56
Relief, laughter as an expression of, 4, 21–22, 23–25, 34–37
Resistance to laughter, 164–77
Richler, Mordecai, 6, 105, 160
Romanticism, 67–68, 195
Rorty, Richard, 42
Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, 18, 99–100, 152, 171–72
Ruskin, John, 6, 145–47, 192–93
Russell, Bertrand, 83, 133–34
R. v. Blue, 120, 122
R. v. Haddock, 120
Ryle, Gilbert, 135
Santayana, George, 194
Satire, 12
Schiller, Friedrich, 192
Schopenhauer, Arthur, 117, 203
Searle, John, 14–15, 135–36
Secrets, revealing, 183
Self-binding, 179–83
Self-deprecation, 42–46, 90–91
Self-directedness of laughter, 75–76
Self-esteem movement, 167
Shattuck, Roger, 90
Shaw, George Bernard, 112
Sick Chickens case, 124–27
Signal, laughter as a, 12–15, 26–27, 180–85
Sitwell, Edith, 77
Smith, Sydney, 31, 61
*Social Text* hoax, 173–75
Social virtues, xii, 87–107
Sokal, Alan, 174–75
Sondheim, Stephen, 112
Snow, C. P., ix–x
Spoonerisms, 31
St. Pierre, Bernardin de, 198–99
Steiner, George, 11–12
Stendhal, 168, 172, 198
Stoppard, Tom, 129
Strachey, Lytton, 62, 161–62
playfulness, 26–27
sociability, 18
See also Normative superiority thesis; Positive superiority thesis
Surprise, as an element of laughter, 17, 20–25
Swift, Jonathan, 11, 14, 42, 50, 96, 140–41
Sykes, Christopher, 56–57
Taste, comic virtue of, 108, 110–11
Taylor, Charles, 67, 72, 88
Teleology, xiii, 81
Temperance, comic virtue of, 87, 106–7
Teresa, St., 67
Tertullian, 8, 22
Timing, 21
Tragedy, compared to comedy, 9–10, 11–12, 24–25, 27
Transcendence, 11–12, 85–86, 194–97
Trilling, Lionel, 27, 112–13, 201
Triumphant laughter, 23–24, 34
Truffaut, François, 80
Twain, Mark, 44–45
Uncertainty, as barrier to norm formation, 160–63
Underclass laughter, xii–xiii, 14. See also Carnival laughter; High mimetic laughter
Unamuno, Miguel de, 196
Updike, John, 112
Urquhart, Thomas, 114–16
Vainglory, 106–7
van der Rohe, Mies, 148–49
Vanity, 165–69
Vicious laughter, 49, 56–59
Voltaire, 32
Vulgarity, comic vice of, 108, 111
Vulgar laughter. See Underclass laughter
Waugh, Evelyn, 12, 148
Watteau, J.-A., 199
Wayne and Shuster, 32
Weber, Max, 195
Wells, H. G., 112
Whiners, 104–5
Whistler, James, 146–47
Wickard v. Filburn, 121
Wilde, Oscar, 22, 27, 88, 101–2
Williams, Tennessee, 112
Wittgenstein, Ludwig, 133–34
Wolfe, Thomas, 107, 144–45, 147
Yeats, William Butler, 20, 150–51, 187