

*Strictly embargoed until 00.01 hrs on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007*

## **Oxford University Press and A & C Black to publish new online version of *Who's Who* and *Who Was Who***

Oxford University Press and A & C Black are delighted to announce a new publishing agreement to produce online versions of *Who's Who* and *Who Was Who*.

Starting in December 2007, both the 2008 edition and the historical archive of *Who's Who* will be available online from Oxford University Press in a dedicated, specially-designed website.

The first and most renowned reference work of its kind, dating back to the mid-nineteenth century, *Who's Who* in online form will sit alongside and enhance Oxford's own award-winning range of biographical databases, such as the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB)*.

The separate new *Who's Who* and *Who Was Who* website will be developed by the team responsible for the *ODNB*, and will combine ease of use with unrivalled biographical search functionality.

The information provided by about 32,000 current entrants in the annual editions of *Who's Who* will complement the coverage of the *ODNB*, which does not include living people.

Looking back in time, there will be many thousands of connections where people are included in both works. With a single click of a mouse, online readers will be able to compare the entries captured in *Who Was Who*, largely supplied by the people themselves – from Winston Churchill to Barbara Cartland – with their biographies in the *ODNB*, and *vice versa*. *Who Was Who* will also provide a reference point for many not chosen for fuller biographies in the *ODNB*.

“We are delighted to have the opportunity to create a website that will help readers to explore the rich information in *Who's Who* and *Who Was Who* in ways never previously possible”, says Robert Faber, Director of the *ODNB* at Oxford University Press. “*Who's Who* is essential reference for researchers, academics, business people, government officials, and charities, as well as curious readers everywhere.

“The 100,000 autobiographical entries in *Who Was Who* are also a perfect companion to the *ODNB*'s 56,000 biographies, and many more in Oxford's other online services. For the first time, readers will be able to move seamlessly between these unrivalled national resources.”

“Oxford has an excellent track record in developing new ways to use prestigious print reference works,” says Jonathan Glasspool, Deputy Managing Director of A & C Black, “and then in making them accessible online to the widest possible audience through a range of national licence agreements.

“So we’re excited to be working with Oxford to develop a new online life for *Who’s Who* and *Who Was Who*. The new website will offer great search options, and an expanding range of links to the *ODNB* and other Oxford Online resources. We are confident that it will be welcomed worldwide.”

A&C Black will continue to publish the print edition of the work throughout the world.

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#### **Notes to editors:**

##### **Oxford University Press**

1. Oxford University Press (OUP) is a department of the University of Oxford, and the world’s largest university press
2. OUP furthers Oxford University’s objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education in its worldwide publishing
3. In addition to publishing over 4,600 new books each year and over 180 journals, OUP is a major provider of online information to libraries and individuals worldwide, through online products including the Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, American National Biography, Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Grove Dictionary of Art, Oxford Scholarship Online, and Oxford Reference Online
4. More information about OUP can be found at: [www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)  
More information about Oxford Online products can be found at: [www.oxfordonline.com](http://www.oxfordonline.com)

##### **A & C Black**

1. A&C Black, which celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, is a wholly owned subsidiary company of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
2. A&C Black is perhaps most famous for its publication of *Who’s Who* since 1897, although the backlist and continuing publication schedule proves the extensive and varied nature of the list. Its list encompasses books on sport, fitness and training; Visual Arts, glass, ceramics and printmaking; plays and performing arts (Methuen Drama); titles on all aspects of sailing and boating (Adlard Coles Nautical); books for birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts (Christopher Helm) and of course a substantial reference list. A&C Black also publishes a wide range of children’s fiction and non-fiction books aimed to aid teachers and parents in the education of their children

##### ***Who’s Who* and *Who Was Who***

1. *Who’s Who*, published annually since 1849 and the first biographical book of its kind, is among the world’s most recognised and respected works of reference. It contains over 32,000 short biographies, continually updated, of living noteworthy and influential individuals, from all walks of life, worldwide. Approximately one thousand new entries are added every year

2. Each biographee supplies the original information for their entry and is then sent an annual proof for updating. *Who's Who* editors also monitor the press and other sources of reference for day-to-day changes and additions. The information contained in a *Who's Who* entry is essentially autobiographical, its accuracy maintained by constant independent research
3. *Who Was Who* is a comprehensive collection of entries that were included in *Who's Who* but have been updated and archived following each person's death. The archive now covers more than 100,000 people who died between 1897 and 2006, and is available in print in eleven volumes, plus a cumulated index (1987–2000).
4. More information about *Who's Who* can be found at: <http://www.ukwhoswho.com>

#### ***Oxford Dictionary of National Biography***

1. The *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (*ODNB*) is published in print (63 million words in 60 volumes) and online at [www.oxforddnb.com](http://www.oxforddnb.com). The online *ODNB* is updated in January, May, and October each year. The Dictionary is a research project of the University of Oxford, published and funded by Oxford University Press
2. Biographies in the online edition of the *ODNB* currently include people who died in or before the year 2003. No living person is included. As of May 2007, the *ODNB* includes 51,238 articles in which are told the life stories of 56,103 people. 10,361 biographies include a portrait image of the subject; the Dictionary has been written by 12,935 authors
3. Since April 2006 the complete *ODNB* has been available to 48 million residents in England and to all residents of Northern Ireland via their public library. There is further extensive public library access in other parts of the United Kingdom and worldwide. Remote log-ins allow library readers to consult the online *ODNB* from home