

Monday 10th December 2007

New online edition of *Who's Who* unveiled

www.ukwhoswho.com

Not only does *Who's Who* get an ultra chic collection of entries added this week, with names including Kate Moss, Domenico Dolce, Stefano Gabbana and Stella McCartney, but it also gets a completely new design.

From Monday 10th December online editions of *Who's Who 2008* and *Who Was Who* will be published by Oxford University Press (OUP) and the same team responsible for the multi-award-winning *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

The famous red book of *Who's Who* is instantly recognisable; and with the launch of the newly designed online edition of *Who's Who*, Oxford University Press is providing the first dedicated home for *Who's Who* information on the web - with a new identity, and new functionality custom-made for biographical research.

The new *Who's Who 2008* and *Who Was Who* complement OUP's other authoritative online resources including the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, *Oxford Reference Online*, and the *Grove Dictionaries of Art and Music*. Together they provide an unparalleled collection of biographical records.

Just as with the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, the new *Who's Who* is simple to use but clever behind the scenes.

What's new about the new *Who's Who*?

- Quick and easy results: tabbed results screens mean that running even complex searches is as easy as clicking on links. Search under Essex and find instances of Essex in 'names' (Earls of Essex, David Essex), 'education' (Essex University), 'recreation' (played cricket for Essex) and 'addresses'
- Readers can search specifically by category. For example, find all the women writers who were educated at Exeter University, anyone who lives in St John's Wood, or all politicians
- Searches can then be refined so that, for example, you could find out which politicians like hill walking, or which ones are female, or under 40. The combinations are endless
- Extensive internal cross-references lead you to other family members, or contemporaries in similar professions, or people who share a birthday or club. Find out, who Anthony Horowitz's contemporaries are in both literature and film, who Mick Jagger shares his birthday date with, or how many members of the Redgrave family are listed

- Over 10,000 direct web links mean that users can compare and contrast what people such as Dame Barbara Cartland or Anthony Blunt wrote about themselves in *Who Was Who* with their biographies in the *Oxford DNB*
- Readers can easily switch from searching just *Who's Who 2008* entries to entries from both *Who's Who* and *Who Was Who*
- Other easy-to-use benefits include a print-friendly format and the ability to email results
- The online edition of *Who's Who* will now be updated on a monthly basis: if someone included in the current edition dies, the date of death will be noted.
- Major annual updates will coincide with each annual printed edition of *Who's Who* and include new selections of people, updates of existing entries supplied by the biographees themselves, and amendments to newly archived entries in *Who Was Who*

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Notes to Editors:

- *Who's Who 2008* and *Who Was Who* in print and online are available from Monday 10th December 2007. The book costs £150. The print-and-online edition (for individual customers) costs £295, and online-only access is available to institutions by annual subscription, all from www.ukwhoswho.com
- Press access to online versions of both *Who's Who* and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* is available on request through Colman Getty
- *Who's Who 2008* online contains over 33,000 entries, with nearly 90,000 entries from *Who Was Who*. The entries are short biographies of living noteworthy and influential individuals, from all walks of life, worldwide. There is a wealth of personal information for each entry including full name, titles, birth date, death date, family history, education, honours, career history, personal interests, clubs, publications or other creative works, and contact details.
- Around 1,000 new entries are added annually, in December
- The first edition of *Who's Who* was published in 1849. Then a compact, 250-page volume (one tenth the size of the 2008 edition), it consisted of an almanac followed by thirty-nine lists of ranks and appointments and the names of those holding them

Since its launch, *Who's Who* has consolidated its status of supreme national importance proving to be invaluable as a research tool and a unique way of measuring social change. During the Second World War, Winston Churchill personally intervened to ensure its publication and full circulation was not affected by the paper shortage. *Who's Who* is still to this day the definitive

reference book relied upon by academics, researchers, business, people, government officials and charities, as well as the casual browser

- Oxford University Press (OUP) is a department of the University of Oxford, and the world's largest university press. 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
- The *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (ODNB) is published in print (63 million words in 60 volumes) and online at www.oxforddnb.com. The online version currently includes over 56,000 biographies of people who died in or before the 2003. No living person is included.
- The text of *Who's Who* and *Who Was Who* has previously been published online as part of aggregated services from Credo (formerly xreferplus) and ProQuest (in its KnowUK service). During 2008 Oxford's new service will launch alongside those previous services. From 2009 *Who's Who* and *Who Was Who* will be available online exclusively from Oxford University Press
- A&C Black, publishers of *Who's Who* since 1897, continue to edit the work and to publish it in print
- New entries in *Who's Who* for 2008 include Kate Moss, Domenico Dolce, Stefano Gabbana, Stella McCartney, Darren Clarke, Jonny Wilkinson, Daithí McKay, Bethan Jenkins, Dr Mortimer Sackler, Hanna Segal, Dr Angela Merkel, Dominic Rudd, Edward Hall, Richard Hammond, Amanda Ross, Armando Iannucci, Nicholas Lyndhurst, Emily Maitlis, Samira Ahmed, Michael Alan Clements, and Dylan Jones

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