

A Short History of Cambridge University Press is an account of the world's oldest press, from the publication of the Press's first book in 1584 through to the present day. It emphasises the constitutional basis of the Press, which is an integral part of its parent university, and highlights the moments of change and crisis: Richard Bentley's revival in the 1690s, the Victorian renaissance in the 1850s, the rise of modern university publishing, two world wars, the crisis and the reconstruction of the early 1970s, and the printing and publishing expansion of the 1990s. This history brings out the unique nature of the Press, which is an educational charitable enterprise, trading with vigour throughout the world and publishing over 2,400 titles a year. This revised and illustrated second edition brings the story up to the turn of the millennium, and emphasises both the diversity of the Press's recent achievements and its current aims.

Michael Black, formerly University Publisher, is also the author of the full-length history, *Cambridge University Press 1584–1984*, written for the Press's Quatercentenary in 1984 (published with new material in paperback, 2000).

A SHORT HISTORY OF
Cambridge University Press



The University's coat of arms, granted in 1573, was used as an imprint on the title-page of Pierre de la Ramée's *Dialectica*, printed in 1584 by Thomas Thomas, the first University Printer.

A SHORT HISTORY OF
Cambridge University Press

MICHAEL BLACK

FORMERLY UNIVERSITY PUBLISHER
AND EMERITUS FELLOW OF CLARE HALL,
CAMBRIDGE



Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-77572-4 — A Short History of Cambridge University Press
 Michael Black
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521775724

© Cambridge University Press 2000

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1992

Revised second edition published 2000

Reprinted 2007

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Black, Michael H.

A short history of Cambridge University Press/Michael Black.

p. cm.

ISBN 978 0 521 77572 4 paperback

1. Cambridge University Press – History. 2. University presses – England – Cambridge – History. 3. Scholarly publishing – England – Cambridge – History. 4. Printing – England – Cambridge – History.

I. Title.

Z232.C17B59 1999

070.5'94 – DC20 91-37492 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-77572-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

CONTENTS

PAGE	
viii	Acknowledgements
1	Introduction
2	The first stationers
6	The Charter
8	The first Cambridge press
11	Conflict with the Stationers
16	Bentley's public press
20	The eighteenth century
25	The early nineteenth century
32	The partnership
37	The partnership ends
39	Between the wars
43	After 1945
49	Crisis and recovery
55	Consolidating the past, constructing the future: 1980s to early 1990s
61	The 1990s: global activity and innovation
64	Achievements and challenges of the 1990s and beyond
69	'One of the brightest jewels ...'
70	Some Cambridge books and authors
75	APPENDIX I The Letters Patent of 1534, in English translation
77	APPENDIX II Statute J of the University
80	APPENDIX III University Printers from 1583
81	APPENDIX IV Secretaries of the Press Syndicate from 1874
83	INDEX

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Michael Black's *A Short History of Cambridge University Press* was first published in 1992, and now appears in a fully revised and updated edition. At the previous revision, in 1993, the opportunity was taken to update the section 'Some Cambridge books and authors', and to mention recent developments such as the opening of the Press editorial office at Stanford, Geoffrey Cass's retirement, and the appointment of Tony Wilson as Chief Executive of the Press. Since that time, as new final sections of this book testify, there have been many significant developments in the Press's history such as the establishment of new Press Branches and the appointment in 1999 of a new Chief Executive, as well as the many economic and technological demands made by present-day printing and publishing. These recent developments are described in some detail, since together they help form a picture of the complex Press of today.

New material on the history of the Press from the 1980s has been provided by William Davies, assisted by Anne Dunbar-Nobes.

Illustrations are reproduced by kind permission of the Syndics of the University Library and the Keeper of the University Archives.