Publisher's Profile/Henry Holt

Editor
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Column Editor: Mike Markwith (The Faxon Company)

Henry Holt and Company
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Officers

Bruno Quinson, President and CEO
Greg Hamlin, V.P., Sales and Marketing
Skip Fischer, V.P., Controller
William Strachan, V.P., Associate Publisher, Editor-in-Chief, Adult Trade
Brenda Bowen, V.P., Associate Publisher, Editor-in-Chief, Books for Young Readers
Ken Wright, Editorial Director, Reference Books
Steve Berkowitz, V.P., MIS: Press, Publisher
Jeffrey Shulman, Twenty-First Century Books
Wendy Sherman, V.P., Subsidiary Rights Director

Vital Statistics

Number of employees: 103
1992 estimated number of books to be published: 260
In print titles: 1,750

History and Description of Henry Holt and Company

Henry Holt and Company was founded by 26-year-old Henry Holt in 1866 in New York City. In partnership originally with Frederick Leyboldt, a Stuttgart publisher and bookseller, the partners concentrated on publishing, the first company to do so without benefit of a bookstore or a printing plant. By 1880 Holt was one of America’s leading publishers, with a backlog of more than 300 titles. Henry Holt retired in 1915 but continued to direct the company until his death in 1926. Some of Holt’s early successful authors were John Dewey, Robert Louis Stevenson, Walter Lippmann, Carl Sandburg, and Albert Einstein.

In 1959, through two acquisitions, Holt became Holt, Rinehart & Winston, a complete educational as well as trade publisher. This merger was followed by one with CBS in 1967 which lasted until 1985 when CBS divested itself of its publishing properties. At this time Holt’s general books publishing program was sold to the German publisher Georg von Holtzbrinck GmbH and the imprint of Henry Holt and Company was renewed.

Holt prides itself on working closely with its authors, developing them book by book. Two current bestselling authors are humorist Patrick McManus and mystery writer Sue Grafton. Strong backlist titles are Robert Frost’s poetry and Mailer’s The Naked and the Dead. Holt publishes adult trade fiction and nonfiction, the Owl paperback line, Books for Young Readers, and recent acquisitions: MIS Press, a computer book publisher and Twenty-First Century Books, a Frederick, Maryland based publisher of innovative children’s nonfiction in the areas of drugs, family life, careers, the environment, and multicultural issues.

Henry Holt Reference Books was launched in late 1990. With a staff of five it now has 6 books published with 10 more titles coming by the end of 1992. Our mandate is to answer the information needs of today’s busy professionals, educators, students, and individuals. We pay particular attention to the design of our books and emphasize easy-to-use formats. Our goal is to publish fifteen reference titles per year in the areas of business, history, science and technology, film, public issues, and word affairs. Some forthcoming titles are: The Henry Holt Handbook of Current Science and Technology by Bryan Bunch; Science and Technical Writing: A Manual of Style edited by Philip Rubens; and The Almanac of Renewable Energy by Richard Golob and Eric Brus. We look forward to speaking with you at library meetings and welcome your suggestions and comments about our publishing program.