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## Publisher's Profile / Academic Press, Inc.

Matt Nauman  
*Blackwell North America*

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# Publisher's Profile

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## Vital Statistics:

Number of employees worldwide: 275  
1994 estimated number of books to be published: 400  
In-print titles: 7,000

In 1992, Academic Press celebrated its 50th anniversary as one of the world's leading scientific publishers. With publishing centers in San Diego, California, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England, Academic Press collectively publishes approximately 190 scholarly journals and 400 new books per year; its backlist encompasses over 7,000 titles, some of which appeared as long ago as 1943.

Academic Press was founded in 1942 as the New York counterpart of Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft in Leipzig. The company soon instituted a series of advances in specific sciences, published primary information journals and eventually branched out into textbooks. The first journals published by AP, **Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics** and **The Journal of Colloid and Interface Science**, are still important parts of today's program. Early book serial programs, such as **Vitamins and Hormones**, are still alive and well today. **Methods in Enzymology**, AP's foremost book serial appeared in 1955; close to 250 volumes have been published to date. The textbook division was established in 1961; its first book was **Laboratory Studies in General Chemistry**.

Academic Press is now part of Harcourt Brace and Company. In 1981, the Journal Division moved from New York to San Diego, followed by the Book Department in 1987. In recent years AP has begun to offer its products in a variety of media. CD-ROM versions of key encyclopedias and long-standing serials will soon be available. Bulletin boards and other online services are being used to promote AP titles.

In the spring of 1993, Academic Press started a new imprint: AP Professional. This is a list of professional and reference computer books which provide computer professionals with better access to the tools of their trade. Some 40 APP titles have been released, including such notables as Luther, **Authoring Interactive Media**, and Weiskamp, **The Borland C++ 4.0 Primer**. ☞

## Dame Iris Murdoch

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as she develops the outlines of the characters, the names become evident for them. Getting to know and like one's characters, letting them tell you who they are so that by the end of the novel you are very attracted to them is very important. she says. I asked about her inspirations and how much she draws from her personal life. She does keep a journal/diary that goes back before the war and she keeps meaning to destroy it before she dies(!). She is currently working on a new novel, but says it is in the first very rough stages. Her most important piece of advice to an au-

thor was to "give writing time."

Finally, I asked Dame Murdoch about the past productions, or future possibility, of her works in forms other than novels. She has written "five or six" plays but does not particularly like doing them. She has done them mainly for actor friends who have convinced her to do them. She has trouble with plays because she doesn't love the stage and this is a necessity for her in writing good drama. The one she did with **J.B. Priestly** ("A Severed Head") she did enjoy, though. I had once seen an old paperback copy of **A Severed Head** that boasted "Now a Columbia Picture," but had never found out anything more about

it. I asked Dame Murdoch about it, but she did not remember distinctly any of her works being made into movies or television shows. She said they could have been, especially since she does not own a television. "This is one of the only households in England that does not, I am sure," she said.

At this point I felt as if I had taken up enough time with this great author and said my thanks and goodbyes. It was only later, when I was talking with other literary people of Oxford, who told me that Dame Murdoch did not make many public appearances and very few in town, that I realized what a wonderful and unique experience this had been. ☞