



Did You Know?

A reader asks: "Could you give us a brief history of [Butterworths](#)? And how did they become part of the LexisNexis family anyway?" Of course...



Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) was founded in 1818 by Henry Butterworth who sold both his own publications and many other law books. The firm was first known as Henry Butterworth, law bookseller and publisher but from the 1850's was variously known as Messrs. Butterworth, Messrs. Butterworth & Co, and Messrs. Butterworth & Son though it appears in London directories from 1853

as Henry Butterworth & Co.

On the death of Joshua Whitehead Butterworth (Henry's son) in 1895, the firm was bought by Shaw & Sons, law printers and publishers. The new business was known as Butterworth & Co. and was owned by Charles Bond, who was soon succeeded by his son, Stanley Shaw Bond. The company has been known colloquially (in the twentieth century at least) as Butterworths.

Butterworth limited companies were set up from 1910 onwards to trade in the empire and dominions, but the principal United Kingdom firm was not set up as a limited company until 1927 when Stanley Shaw Bond changed the name of Butterworth & Co. (Canada) to Butterworth & Co. (Publishers).

Butterworths remained a group of separate companies with Bond as the sole shareholder of each company until his death in 1943. The company structure was then reorganized with the smaller companies becoming subsidiaries of Butterworth & Co. (Publishers). In 1947, Butterworths became a public company and in 1967. it was bought by the International Publishing Corporation (IPC). Reed International bought IPC in 1970.

Henry Butterworth started off his business at 7 Fleet Street in 1818. In 1899 the firm moved to 12 Bell Yard; then 4/6 Bell Yard 1912-1953; 88 Kingsway 1955-1994; Borough Green, Kent 1973-1995; and Halsbury House, 35 Chancery Lane 1994 to date.

Some Key Dates

1818: Butterworths legal publisher founded

1966: LexisNexis founded as the Mead Data Corporation in the United States

1970: Butterworth Group joins Reed

1973: Lexis legal service launched in U.S.

1979: Nexis news aggregation service launched in U.S.

1989: The one millionth LexisNexis user ID is issued

1994: Reed Elsevier acquires LexisNexis

2001: LexisNexis becomes global brand, absorbing Butterworth brand

2005: LexisNexis Butterworths global platform launched in U.K.

2006: LexisNexis Butterworths platform wins Online Product of the Year at the Legal Technology Awards

2006: The 10 millionth LexisNexis user ID is issued

Do you have a question about the company's history? A company acronym you don't understand? Want more information on a product or solution we provide? Or a piece of trivia that you would love to know the correct answer on? (We'll also take answers - we're very willing to be educated by those who've been at the company for a while). Please send us [your questions, trivia, or historical facts about LexisNexis](#) and we'll share the information in future articles.

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