Preface

This reference work has an established history that stretches back over two decades. It began life as *Who's Who in Economics: A Biographical Dictionary of Major Economists, 1700–1981* and was first published in 1983 by Wheatsheaf. The choice of this particular title for the book by the then-editors Mark Blaug and Paul Sturges begged two fundamental questions. First, what is an 'economist'? Second, what is a 'major economist'?

While there are many possible definitions of an economist the one chosen from the outset of the volume, after due consideration, is someone whose work is published in one of the hundreds of refereed journals of economics. It was recognised that this is unfair to the many dedicated teachers of economics who publish little or nothing, to business and government economists whose writings are rarely published, and to economists working for international agencies whose writings frequently remain anonymous. The choice of the publication criterion, however, was dictated by the prior choice of eminence in economics. The dictionary definition of 'eminence' is 'one who stands high as compared with others, especially in his/her own calling'. But who is to judge high standing as compared with others? Presumably, none other than members of the peer group, which is to say that eminent or major economists are those who receive prizes and honorary degrees, are nominated and elected to offices in professional associations of economists, and who are frequently cited in the writings of other economists. In fact, we may virtually reduce the concept of eminence to frequency of citations, because the number of times particular economists are footnoted in journal articles over a period of years has been shown to be highly correlated with the award of Nobel prizes, with election to offices in leading professional associations, and with differences in salaries earned (see for example, Quandt, 1976; Bordo and Landau, 1979; Grubel, 1979; Hamermesh et al., 1982).

There are good reasons why scholars cite the works of other scholars. Nothing is as fundamental to science as the notion that scientific knowledge is public and freely available to all: there is no such thing as an inalienable property right in new ideas. The practice of citing authorities is therefore an attempt to provide incentives to intellectual pioneers by giving public recognition to their priority claims. For that reason all scientific communities develop informal mechanisms for penalising individuals who, in effect, infringe the property rights of others by failing to acknowledge their influences and sources of inspiration. Nevertheless, this informal mechanism operates imperfectly, and citation practices are frequently abused: witness the typical doctoral dissertation with endless citations of the works of the candidate's supervisors, the common habit of advertising one's own works by self-citations however irrelevant to the theme in question, the tendency of members of a particular school to cite each other, and the widespread inclination to cite 'stars' in the profession to show that the author is knowledgeable. However, there is the opposite tendency to refer to really famous scholars by name without citing their works, lest a citation be construed as an insult to the intelligence of one's audience (Garfield, 1979).

Despite all these qualifications in equating scholarly ‘eminence’ with the frequency of citation counts, it is difficult to conceive of any other single objective indicator that is equally revealing of peer recognition of scientific achievement. In consequence, all living economists in this dictionary have been selected on the grounds that they are frequently cited by their colleagues.

Using citation counts for the 11-year period, 1970–80, from roughly 200 economics journals listed in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) as the main criterion for selecting the names of economists to be included, the first edition (Blaug and Sturges, 1983) contains biographical and bibliographical details of approximately 700 living and 400 dead economists. For the first edition the objective citation criterion for selection was supplemented by an informal count of citation frequencies in missing European and Asian journals and by adding a sprinkling of names of economists whose works are rarely cited but whose outstanding achievements in advising policy-makers in business and government are widely acknowledged. In the latter case these subjective additions led to a flood of objections along the lines that ‘so-and-so should also have been included’ and in subsequent editions the objective method of citation frequencies has been rigidly adhered to.

The second edition of the volume *Who’s Who in Economics: A Biographical Dictionary of Major Economists*, edited by Mark Blaug, was published in 1986 by Wheatsheaf. Using citation counts from the SSCI for the 12-year period, 1972–83, the volume contains details on roughly 900 living and 400 dead economists. After a gap of some 13 years the third edition, this time with an abridged title of *Who’s Who in Economics*, edited by Mark Blaug, was published by Edward Elgar in 1999. For the third edition the enumeration period of citation counts was moved forward to a 13-year period, 1984–96, and the volume contains biographical and bibliographical details on roughly 1100 living and over 550 dead economists. In the latter case the entries for the over 400 dead economists carried forward from the second edition were written by Mark Blaug on the basis of standard sources, while those of roughly the 100 economists whose appeared in the second edition but who died in the 13-year gap between publication of the second and third editions were written by the economists themselves before their death.

For this new edition of *Who’s Who in Economics* we have introduced a number of changes. Apart from moving the period of citation counts forward to articles published in the 11-year period, 1990–2000 (previous editions of this dictionary used the method of citation frequencies over a given period irrespective of the year in which articles were published), the main change is to exclude anyone who died before 31 December 2001. The source of names selected for potential inclusion was obtained using *EconLit*, the American Economic Association’s electronic database which provides bibliographic information on more than 600 economic journals (not to mention books, dissertations and abstracts of working papers in economics) going back to 1969. Once we had obtained authored frequencies of articles published between 1990 and 2000 using *EconLit*, having experimented with different weights based on the impact factor of different journals (Laband and Piette, 1994), a rank order of economists by citation frequencies for those authored articles was produced using the SSCI (Institute for Scientific Information-ISI-Web of Science). The rank order of economists by citation frequencies revealed a number of natural breaks, one of which occurred around the number 1200. Hence, we ended up with 1168 authors identified for inclusion, of which some 900 were new names

not found in the third edition of the book. The number 1168 is of course the result of an arbitrary cut-off point to allow the production of a manageable volume. Another change in this edition is to omit entries of dead economists for whom the third edition (Blaug, 1999) of this dictionary will have to be consulted. An electronic version of the third edition can be accessed via www.whoswhoineconomics.com.

As with earlier editions the authors of the entries for living economists are the economists themselves: each was asked to supply the relevant information, including a statement of their principal contributions to economics as *they* – and not we – conceive them. The following information was requested of them, selected under ten main headings.

1. Last name, all first names.
2. Year and place of birth (town/city, US state if applicable, and country).
3. Title of current post with start year, name and location of current employer.
4. Previous posts and employers with years.
5. Degrees received (in economics unless otherwise stated), university and year.
6. Main offices held, prizes won and honours received with years.
7. Editorial duties, if any, with years.
8. Principal field of interest, and up to two others, based on the classification listed in the American Economic Association's *Journal of Economic Literature*.
9. Chief publications (limited to a maximum of 20 publications in total) in chronological order of publication under the headings of books and articles. For books: title, publisher and year of publication. For articles: title, journal, volume number, month/season and year of publication.
10. Statement of principal contributions to economics (in no more than 300 words).

As anyone who has ever been involved in editorial work of this kind will attest, entrants provided a disparity of information. Entries were standardised by us and then returned to entrants for their approval. This volume contains 699 new or up-dated entries and 44 repeated entries from the third edition, giving a response rate to our repeated mailings of 64 per cent.

Other changes introduced in this edition entail: the opportunity for entrants to decide the balance between books and articles up to a combined maximum of 20 publications (in previous editions entrants' chief publications were limited to 10 books and 10 articles); the inclusion of 'non-respondents' both in the main body of the text and, as in the third edition Appendix 4, in Appendix 5 in the fourth edition; a change from the third edition in the presentation of Appendix 2 from 'Index of country of residence if not USA' to 'Index of country of residence' and Appendix 3 from 'Index of country of birth if not USA' to 'Index of country of birth with year of birth'; and the inclusion of a new Appendix 4, 'Index of affiliation, first degree and doctorate'. It is hoped that these changes to the appendices will lend itself more readily to analysis by interested parties. One of us made a heroic but foolhardy attempt in 1999 to estimate the total stock of living, publishing economists as 17 000, so that 6 per cent of that stock was identified for inclusion in the third edition of this dictionary (Blaug, 1999, p. xi). If so, the stock of living, publishing economists is now over 20 000, but by altering the dates covered we may have radically altered the proportion of economists selected, which makes the stock figure of 20 000 highly suspect. For those who relish

bibliometric analysis, particularly in respect of the Americanisation thesis, namely that global economics looks more and more every day like American economics, we note from Appendix 2 that the proportion of economists domiciled in the US has risen steadily throughout the 20 years of the four editions of this book (see Frey and Eichenberger, 1993; Eichenberger and Frey, 2000).

Producing this fourth edition has been a rewarding experience revealing the truly amazing scope and spread of interests among practising economists. It has also been a team effort. As editors our job of checking the final selection of economists and reviewing and editing the entries has only been made possible by the valiant efforts of a number of people involved in the project. In particular we would like to express our gratitude to: Tom Coupé who initially prepared the rank order of citation frequencies; Jo Bostock who dauntlessly contacted all the living economists, dealt with their and our queries, standardised the format of the entries and painstakingly inputted the text; Margaret Pugh who copy edited and proofread the text; and Dymphna Evans (Senior Commissioning Editor) and Julie Leppard (Head of Editorial and Production Services) who oversaw the production of the book from start to finish. Without their collective inputs this fourth edition would not have seen the light of day.

Mark Blaug and Howard R. Vane

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