Oxford DNB: August 2022

Welcome to the eighty-ninth update of the Oxford DNB, which adds forty-eight new lives of people who died in 2014, 2015, and 2016 as ‘co-subjects’ in existing articles, linked by family connections (spouses, children, siblings) or professional partnerships.

From August 2022, the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (Oxford DNB) offers biographies of 64,516 men and women who have shaped the British past, contained in 62,117 articles. 11,914 biographies include a portrait image of the subject – researched in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Most public libraries across the UK subscribe to the Oxford DNB, which means that you can access the complete dictionary for free via your local library. Libraries offer ‘remote access’ that enables you to log in at any time at home (or anywhere you have internet access). Elsewhere, the Oxford DNB is available online in schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions worldwide. Full details of participating British public libraries, and how to gain access to the complete dictionary, are available here.
August 2022: summary of newly added lives


Those who died in 2015 comprise: (William) Richard Charles [Dick] Beeston (1926-2015), a journalist, father of Richard Nicholas Beeston (1963–2013), also a journalist; the film producer and arts manager, Michael Birkett, second Baron Birkett (1929–2015), son of the barrister and judge, (William) Norman Birkett, first Baron Birkett (1883–1962); the industrialist and patron of architecture, Sebastian Basil Joseph Ziani de Ferranti (1927–2015), grandson of the electrical engineer and inventor, Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti (1864–1930); the writer and social worker, Sarah Dingle Foot (1937–2015), daughter of the colonial administrator and diplomatist, Hugh Mackintosh Foot, Baron Caradon (1907–1990); the biologist and conservationist, Helga Maud Toynbee Frankland (1920–2015), collaborator with, and sister-in-law of, the mycologist, Juliet Camilla Frankland [née Brown] (1929–2013); the painter and sculptor, Catherine Olivia Jean Fried, née Boswell (1936–2015), the third wife of the poet, translator, and essayist, Erich Fried (1921–1988); the politician and journalist, Sir Philip Carter