

Harold Evans

Editor at Large, Thomson Reuters. Former editor of *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*.

Early career

Evans began his career in journalism as a weekly reporter at the age of sixteen. After service in the Royal Air Force (1946-1949), he graduated from Durham University with honors in Politics and Economics, and in 1956 was awarded a Harkness Fellowship for two years of travel and study in the U.S. at the Universities of Chicago and Stanford. He wrote his Master's thesis on the reporting of foreign policy and was a foreign correspondent for *The Guardian* (then *The Manchester Guardian*). He has since received honorary doctorates in civil law and literature from the Universities of Stirling, Durham, Teesside, Salford and the London Institute.

Following his studies, Evans worked at the *Manchester Evening News*, reporting on science and politics, and writing the paper's editorial comments. He made an early reputation for investigative and campaigning journalism in the sixties as the editor in the north of England of *The Northern Echo*, one of the leading provincial daily newspapers owned by the Westminster Press.

In 1967 the Thomson Organization appointed him managing editor of *The Sunday Times* and in 1967 he was named editor, a position he held for 14 years (1967-1981); he was also chairman of the executive committee and a director of Times Newspapers Board. In 1981, following prolonged industrial troubles, the Thomson Organization put Times Newspaper up for sale. Evans led a management buy group to acquire *The Sunday Times*. Mr. Rupert Murdoch won the bidding and invited Evans to edit *The Times*. He resigned from *The Times* in 1982 in a dispute with Mr. Murdoch over the integrity of the newspaper's political coverage. His account of that year was published as *Good Times, Bad Times*.

On leaving *The Times*, Evans became a director of Goldcrest Film and Television (owned by *The Financial Times* company), responsible for developing a cable news channel. He emigrated to the US in 1984 to become a Poynter Fellow at Yale University and then a visiting professor for a term at Duke University, teaching a law and politics graduate course in the press and the law. (He became an American citizen in 2004.)

In 1984, Evans was appointed editorial director to revitalize *US News and World*

Report in Washington. Two years later he moved to New York to be with his wife, Tina Brown, who had taken over *Vanity Fair*. Evans then founded the monthly magazine *Conde Nast Traveler*.

In his fifth year with Conde Nast, the board appointed Evans President and Publisher of Random House (1990-1997). Seven years later, on the success of his history of the United States from 1889-1989, *The American Century* (Knopf), Evans began working full-time on writing and television projects. Little, Brown and Company subsequently published *They Made America: From the Steam Engine to the Search Engine, Two Centuries of Innovators*. A four-part television series based on the book was produced by WGBH for the PBS network. In 2009, he published a memoir *My Paper Chase* (Little, Brown), of which *The Economist* wrote: "Gripping and timely... Sir Harold 'Harry' Evans remains one of the great figures of modern journalism". In 2011 he became Editor at Large for Thomson Reuters.

AWARDS INCLUDE

- The British Press Awards' Gold Award for Lifetime Achievement, the highest accolade bestowed by the British Press.
- In 2003, in a British Journalism poll conducted by two publications, he was voted Britain's greatest all-time newspaper editor, reflecting fifteen years of national newspaper awards.
- In 1973 he was named Editor of the Year, following *The Sunday Times*' Thalidomide campaign
- He received the European Gold Medal of the Institute of Journalists for his successful appeal to the European Court of Human Rights against the government's suppression of the Thalidomide articles.
- Shortly before ending his year reviving *The Times*, Evans was named Editor of the Year by Granada Television's *What the Papers Say*. In 1999, he was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Center of Photography.
- Evans served on the board of the International Press Institute for several years. Currently, he is on the boards of the Colin Powell Policy Center at City University, and Open Road Media, the digital publisher.
- Lifetime Achievement Award from International Center for Photography, 2000
- Hood medal for photojournalism from the Royal Photographic Society

Sir Harold Evans was honored with a knighthood in the Queen's 2004 New

Year's Honors list for services to journalism.

SPEAKING

Moderator at the Council on Foreign Relations and a keynote speaker for the International Press Institute. As a broadcaster, he succeeded the late Alastair Cooke with the BBC, whose Letter from America was superseded by Point of View.

LECTURES INCLUDE:

The Granada Guildhall Lecture, The Half-Free Press, 1972.
The Institute of Stationers' Lecture, 1979.
Keynote speaker, Washington D. C. American Society of Newspaper Editors: The First Amendment, everyone should have one, 1979.
London University Freedom of Information lecture, 1994.
The Gannett Lecture, Freedom Forum, New York. The press the public deserves, 1997.
Reuters Foundation, Oxford University lecture, Freedom for What? 1998.
Co-chair and Keynote speaker, U.S. Committee to Protect Journalists, 1998.
Guild of Editors lecture, UK. Local News makes good, 1999.
London School of Economics, Learning from each other, 1999.
2000: Freedom Forum, Washington, D.C. Exhibition curator and essayist on the reporting of war
The Index Lecture at Hay on Wye Literary Festival, The View From Ground Zero: Anti-Americanism and the New Anti-Semitism, 2002.
Royal Society of Arts lecture: Is Genius enough? 2010.
Keynote speaker, Overseas Press Club, 2012.

OTHER BOOKS:

A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism (Foreword), Facing History, 2012
The Hugo Young Papers (Introduction), Penguin, 2009
Don McCullin (Introduction), Random House, 2003
War Stories - Bunker Hill, 2003

The Best American Magazine Writing Ever (Ed.), Perseus, 2001
Shots in the Dark: True Crime Pictures (Introduction), Bulfinch, 2001
The Active Newsroom (IPI)
Suffer the Children (co-author with Insight), 1979
Thalidomide: Children and the Law (ed.), 1973
The Half-Free Press (With Katharine Graham and David
Windelsham), 1973

1966-72 - Publication of Editing and Design Series. At the invitation of the British Guild of Editors, and the National Council, Evans wrote a five volume series of textbooks, Editing and Design, which consisted of:

Newsman's English
Text Typography
Headline Writing
Newspaper Design
Pictures on a Page

The series became the standard text for national training in Britain. All five volumes were published in the United States. *Newspaper Design* was translated into Spanish for Latin America. The series was used for training by the Asian Press Institute in the South-East and also in China.

Newsman's English was republished in 1999 by the Society of Newspaper Editors under the title *Essential English*.