Company no: 518601

CHATTO AND WINDUS LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 DECEMBER 1996



REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The directors present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1996.

Business Review

The principal activity of the company continues to be book publishing.

The turnover and results of the company for the year are set out in the attached financial statements.

The directors are of the opinion that the state of the company's affairs was satisfactory at 31 December 1996 and that the company will continue to develop in the future.

Dividend

No dividend is proposed for the year.

Directors

The following were directors during the year:

S MASTER
AS McCONNELL

Chairman

Neither of the directors at 31 December 1996 had any interest in the shares of any group company at either the beginning or end of the year.

<u>Auditors</u>

Price Waterhouse have indicated their willingness to continue in office. A resolution concerning their re appointment will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board

RL SMITH Secretary

Random House 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road LONDON SW1V 2SA

14 March 1997

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STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Companies Act 1985 requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of the financial period and of the profit or loss for the period to that date.

The directors are responsible for maintaining appropriate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the company at any time and for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The directors confirm that the accounts have been prepared using suitable accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates. The directors also confirm that the accounts have been prepared following applicable UK accounting standards and on a going concern basis.

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF CHATTO AND WINDUS LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements on pages 4 to 10 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 6.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 2 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 1996 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

PRICE WATERHOUSE

Price Waterhace

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Southwark Towers 32 London Bridge Street LONDON, SEI 9SY

14 March 1997

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 December 1996

	Notes	1996 £	1995 £
TURNOVER	2	2,445,149	2,511,163
Changes in stocks of finished goods and work in progress		(75,225)	34,719
Raw materials and consumables		(772,122)	(959,599)
Other external charges		(1,591,573)	(1,655,540)
Staff costs	3	(134,058)	(121,151)
Depreciation	6	(3,018)	(3,018)
LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		(130,847)	(193,426)
Taxation on Loss on Ordinary Activities	5	38,000	269,632
(LOSS)/PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	12	(92,847)	76,206

Turnover is derived from continuing activities.

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than as disclosed in the Profit & Loss Account.

RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

(Loss)/Profit for the year	(92,847)	76,206
Shareholders' funds at 1 January 1996	(2,586,259)	(2,662,465)
Shareholders' funds at 31 December 1996	(2,679,106)	(2,586,259)

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 December 1996

	Notes		1996 £		1995 £
FIXED ASSETS Tangible fixed assets	6		2,766		5,784
CURRENT ASSETS Stocks	7	260,893		336,118	
Advance royalties Debtors	8	1,366,447 264,100		1,205,315 370,616	
		1,891,440		1,912,049	•
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	9	(4,164,312)		(4,148,092)	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			(2,272,872)		(2,236,043)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			(2,270,106)		(2,230,259)
Deferred taxation	10		(409,000)		(356,000)
		:	(2,679,106)	•	(2,586,259)
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Share Capital Profit and loss account	11 12		88,000 (2,767,106)		88,000 (2,674,259)
EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		-	(2,679,106)	-	(2,586,259)
		=		=	

Approved by the board on 14 March 1997.

AS McCONNELL Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 1996

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation of Accounts

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Turnover

Turnover comprises the sale of published books, net of returns, and related rights and representation fees receivable excluding value added tax.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets over their estimated useful lives on a straight line basis. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are as follows:

Motor vehicles 25%

Stocks

Stocks comprise finished goods and work in progress in respect of books.

Finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes the costs of paper, printing and binding incurred on a title by title basis. Plant costs, which do not vary with the number of copies printed (for example typesetting, origination and illustration), are charged to the profit and loss account in full on publication.

Work in progress is stated at cost.

Royalties

Royalty advances to authors which are not expected to be earned from future sales of books and rights are charged to the profit and loss account in the year of publication. Royalty advances to authors on unpublished titles are reviewed annually.

Deferred Taxation

Provision is made under the liability method for the corporation tax effect arising from all timing differences other than those which are expected with reasonable probability to continue to be deferred into the foreseeable future.

Pensions

The charges against profits for the company's contributions to the group pension scheme are calculated so as to spread the cost over the expected average remaining service lives of employees who are members of the scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 1996 (continued)

2.	TURNOVER	1996 £	1995 £
	The company's turnover arises from its principal	activity of book publish	ing.
	Geographical analysis of turnover:	-	
	UK and Eire	1,734,387	1,577,497
	Rest of the World	710,762	933,666
		2,445,149	2,511,163
3.	LOSS BEFORE TAX		
	The loss before tax is stated after charging:		
	Staff costs:		
	Wages & salaries	110,882	99,536
	Social security costs	10,138	9,382
	Group pension scheme costs	13,038	12,233
		134,058	121,151
	The average number of persons employed by the during the year was 4 (1995: 4).	company, including exec	cutive directors,
	Other:		
	Directors' emoluments	-	31,405
4.	DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS		
	The remuneration of the directors, excluding pens	sion contributions, was a	s follows:
	Chairman	nil	nil
	Highest paid director	£ -	£ 11,122
	Directors received emoluments in the following ba	ands:	
		no.	no.
	£ 0-£5,000 £5,001 £10,000	2	2
	£ 5,001 - £10,000 £10,001 - £15,000	-	2
	~10,001 - #10,000		1

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 1996 (continued)

	(continuea)		
		1996	1995
		£	£
5.	TAX ON LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES:		
	Group relief receivable in respect of		
	UK corporation tax losses surrendered		
	-current year	91,000	159,000
	-adjustment of prior years	•	463,632
	Deferred tax movement		,
	-current year	(53,000)	(98,000)
	-adjustment of prior years	•	(255,000)
		38,000	269,632

The company has unutilised tax losses carried forward which the directors estimate at £125,000 subject to agreement by the Inland Revenue.

6.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Cars £
	Cost:	10.071
	at 1 January 1996 and at 31 December 1996	12,071
	Depreciation:	
	at 1 January 1996	6,287
	Charge for the year	3,018
	at 31 December 1996	9,305
	Net Book Amounts:	
	at 31 December 1996	2,766
	at 31 December 1995	5,784

There were no capital commitments outstanding at the year end (1995: nil).

7.	STOCKS	1996 £	1995 £
	Work in progress Finished books	165,122 95,771	197,607 138,511
		260,893	336,118

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 1996 (continued)

	•	1996	1995
		£	£
8.	DEBTORS		
	Trade debtors	86,960	130,875
	Group relief receivable	91,000	159,000
	Prepayments	86,140	80,741
		264,100	370,616
9.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN	ONE YEAR	
	Trade creditors	835,798	1,111,587
	Amounts owed to group undertakings	2,991,663	2,694,807
	Amounts owed to group undertakings Accruals	336,851	341,698
	Accidats		
		4,164,312	4,148,092
10.	DEFERRED TAXATION The potential liability, and amount provided, for deferrences of capital allowances received over depreciation charged on fixed assets Other short term timing differences Unutilised tax losses	451,000 (42,000) 409,000	398,000 (42,000) 356,000
11.	CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL Authorised: Ordinary shares of £1 each	90,000	90,000
	Allotted, called up and fully paid: Ordinary shares of £1 each	88,000	88,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 1996 (continued)

12.	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
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£

Balance at 1 January 1996

(2,674,259)

Profit for the year

(92,847)

Balance at 31 December 1996

(2,767,106)

COMMITMENTS

There are commitments to authors for the payment of royalty advances amounting to £1,521,027 at 31 December 1996 (1995: £1,493,170). Together with the advances already paid these will be charged against sales of future accounting periods as the books are published.

14. PENSION FUND

The company is a member of the Random House UK Limited group pension scheme. This scheme is of the defined benefit type. The assets of the scheme are invested outside the group by the trustees acting on the advice of independent investment advisors. The pension costs have been assessed in accordance with the advice of a qualified actuary. Contributions to the scheme are based on pension costs across the group as a whole.

Particulars of the actuarial valuation of the scheme are contained in the accounts of Random House UK Limited.

RELATED PARTIES

The company's ultimate parent company is Advance Publications Inc which is incorporated in the United States of America.

The parent of the smallest subgroup for which group accounts are prepared and of which the company is a member is The Conde Nast Publications Limited which is registered in England. Copies of the group accounts can be obtained from the Company Secretary at the registered office, Vogue House, Hanover Square, London W1R 0AD.

As the voting rights in the company are 90% or more controlled by The Conde Nast Publications Limited the company is exempt from the requirement, under Financial Reporting Statement 8, to disclose transactions with entities that are part of the group. The company has taken advantage of this exemption.

The parent company, Random House UK Limited, has indicated that it is its present intention to continue to support the activities of the company.