

PRESS RELEASE



3 May 2004

SOMERSET BOOKS BUYS THE BLUE GUIDES

Somerset Books has bought the Blue Guide and new art/shop/eat series from A&C Black.

Somerset Books, publishers of the Visible Cities Guides since 1999, will continue to publish both series to the same high editorial standards, with the addition of colour maps, illustrations and photographs for the Blue Guides, in a cleaner more navigable format.

Tom Howells, Somerset Books' publisher, said: "Blue Guides are the leading art, architecture and history English-language guide books in the world, and we are delighted to have acquired such a well established list".

Jill Coleman, Managing Director of A&C Black said: "We are very proud to have been the publisher of Blue Guides since 1984, however we have decided to concentrate our publishing efforts on our core lists. The disposal of Blue Guides will give our sales team more time to focus on Sunflower Guides, the unique walking guide series which we will continue to sell and distribute."


Somerset Books has appointed Portfolio, the leading travel specialist, as its UK and Ireland distributor. From 3 May all orders and returns for Blue Guides and art/shop/eat guides should go to Portfolio.

**Contact:**

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Jill Coleman, *A&C Black Managing director* [www.acblack.com](http://www.acblack.com)

Portfolio Distribution [www.portfoliobooks.com](http://www.portfoliobooks.com)

 **About Somerset Books:** Somerset publishes high quality travel guides for the independent traveller under the series names **Blue Guides**, **art/shop/eat** and **Visible Cities**. The first Blue Guide was published in 1918, Somerset is continuing the tradition of erudite and comprehensive guides, now in full colour with great diagrams, maps, floor plans and photographs. Details of the current list can be found at [www.blueguides.com](http://www.blueguides.com).