

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

Stephen Quinn to retire from British Vogue after 26 years, 312 issues published

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Stephen Quinn was publishing director of British Vogue since 1992. Image credit: British Vogue

By STAFF REPORTS

Conde Nast-owned British Vogue's Stephen Quinn has announced he will retire as the magazine's publishing director at the end of the year.

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Mr. Quinn has been at British Vogue for more than two decades, joining Conde Nast in 1988 after working at Hearst, then known as Nat Mags. Mr. Quinn joined Conde Nast to launch the British edition of GQ magazine, thus, to a large degree, establishing the men's magazine market in the United Kingdom.

"Stephen Quinn has steered the Vogue business spectacularly for more than a quarter of a century, and is still working at maximum power in his seventies," said Albert Read, managing director at Conde Nast Britain, in a statement.

"Stephen brings a unique level of charm to each meeting and exchange, while his reputation as a firebrand is well recorded," he said. "He is a strident defender of the fashion bible, and an executive who relishes a battle.

"One of the great characters of the media industry, respected and loved by all his staff and those who work alongside him, Vogue House and the fashion and media industries will miss the ebullient and very mighty Quinn."

Farewell, Vogue House

In 1992, Mr. Quinn oversaw his first issue of British Vogue as publishing director with Liz Tilberis, editor at the time.

That same year, Alexandra Shulman stepped down as editor of GQ to join British Vogue. Mr. Quinn and Ms. Shulman, who recently left her editor in chief position at the publication ([see story](#)), had a working relationship spanning more than a quarter century.

While publishing director, Mr. Quinn has sold 42,600 display ads, and counting. Mr. Quinn also has secured total ad revenues of more than 430 million pounds, or \$582 million at current exchange rates.

British Vogue's June 2016 issue, celebrating the titles 100th birthday, was the largest in its history at 464 pages, and was the biggest in terms of advertisings. The Centenary Issue had 266 ad pages, an increase of 141 pages year-on-

year.

During his time at British Vogue, Mr. Quinn oversaw 312 issues of the magazine.

Mr. Quinn will retire on Dec. 22 after 26 years at British Vogue. The title has yet to announce Mr. Quinn's replacement, but plans to do so shortly.



Stephen Quinn joined Conde Nast from Hearst in 1988. Image credit: British Vogue

"It's been a privilege to champion Vogue with intensity, passion and ferocity," Mr. Quinn said in a statement. "I've relished every day in the office, every skirmish with an agency, every meeting with a client.

"I will leave Vogue in the strongest position possible with a crack commercial team in place," he said. "2018 will be my time, but first I'm looking forward to ensuring the December issue, the debut under the editorship of Edward Enninful, is a blockbuster from a commercial perspective, and will relish securing every possible business opportunity between now and the end of the year."

Conde Nast Britain's senior leadership is currently undergoing a period of transition.

For example, Nicholas Coleridge, the managing director of Conde Nast Britain and president of Conde Nast International, stepped down from his current roles on Aug. 1.

Through at least Dec. 31, 2019, Mr. Coleridge will work as chairman of Conde Nast Britain, bringing his tenure at the media and publishing conglomerate up to 30 years.

Effective as of Aug. 1, Mr. Read became Conde Nast Britain managing director after stints as the publisher's general manager and deputy managing director.

Conde Nast International appointed Wolfgang Blau as Mr. Coleridge's replacement. Mr. Blau was previously the director of Conde Nast International's digital operations and took on the role of president on Aug. 1 ([see story](#)).

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