

# Michael Harris Caine

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**Sir Michael Harris Caine** (17 June 1927 – 20 March 1999)<sup>[1]</sup> was an English businessman. He headed Booker Bros and Booker plc, and helped establish the Man Booker Prize. A president of the Royal African Society, he created the Caine Prize and later also the Russian Booker Prize.

## Biography

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Michael Harris Caine was born in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, on 17 June 1927, the son of economist Sydney Caine who was later Financial Secretary of Hong Kong and director of the London School of Economics. Michael Caine attended Bedales School and studied at the University of Oxford, receiving his bachelor's degree after writing on slavery and secession in the United States. He received his master's degree at George Washington University. He was an executive and board member at Booker plc, and helped establish the Man Booker Prize, using the Prix Goncourt as a model. Caine became chief executive from 1975 to 1979 and finally chairman until 1993, the year he retired. He was also chairman of the Booker Prize Management Committee.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

Caine headed and maintained several Africa-focused organizations and initiatives, including the Royal African Society, the Africa Centre (for which he chaired the council of management from 1995),<sup>[3]</sup> the African Emerging Markets Fund, Africa '95 and the United Kingdom Council for Overseas Students. For his philanthropic work he was knighted in 1988. With his first wife, Janice Mercer, he had one son and one daughter, but divorced her in 1987 to marry Emma Nicholson that same year. Together they had a foster son, Amar Kanim, who was rescued from Iraq after surviving a napalm attack in 1991.<sup>[4]</sup>

Caine was frequently confused with the actor Michael Caine, as his second wife Emma Nicholson recalled, "An enormous number of times. The phone would ring in the middle of the night, and there would be these inebriated women calling from Los Angeles saying, 'I'm coming over, I'm on the next plane, get my room ready.'"<sup>[2]</sup> He died on 20 March 1999 in London.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

## References

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