

Tom Butler-Bowdon

Tom Butler-Bowdon was working as a political advisor when, at 25, he read his first personal development book. At 30, he quit his job to write the best selling *50 Self-Help Classics*, the first guide to the personal development literature that has been translated into 18 languages and won the Benjamin Franklin Award (2004).

This first book was followed by *50 Success Classics* (2004); *50 Spiritual Classics* (2005); *50 Psychology Classics* (2007); and *50 Prosperity Classics* (2008), all published by Nicholas Brealey, London & Boston. The series has been published in 21 languages and is sold in over 30 countries.

With its commentaries on over 250 key books, the series provides a unique overview of an underrated field, highlighting the historical foundations of the personal success literature while providing the first real analysis of the key writings of modern names such as Stephen Covey, Anthony Robbins and Susan Jeffers. *USAToday* described Tom as “a true scholar of this type of literature”.

Tom provided the entry for ‘Self-Help Books’ in Microsoft’s *Encarta* Encyclopedia, and was an advisor to the BBC’s *Imagine* programme on the personal development industry. He is editor of Capstone/Wiley’s new series of classic self-development and motivational writings, providing critical Introductions to titles such as *As A Man Thinketh* and *Think and Grow Rich*.

Tom’s work is serialized in *Psychologies* (Hachete) and in financial publications owned by the Citywire group. He is an experienced media guest, with numerous radio appearances in the United Kingdom, United States and Australia, and has given talks to a variety of groups and organizations. Tom also leads free discussion groups where he lives in Oxford, UK, looking into the major writings and ideas in personal development. His website Butler-Bowdon.com, with its depth of free self-development content, receives 25,000 visitors a month, and has had over a million visits since launch in 2001.

Tom’s unique project to survey the key books in the self-help, motivational, spiritual, psychology and prosperity fields has fed directly into the development of his own ideas

as expressed in his next book, *Never Too Late To Be Great*, which explores the role of time in career and life success. His aim is to raise the bar on the self-development field, making personal success a studiable, scientifically grounded field in the same way that Peter Drucker established management as a proper discipline.

Further points about Tom Butler-Bowdon

- Based in the UK, Tom was born in 1967 and grew up in Adelaide, Australia.
- He has degrees from the University of Sydney (BA Hons, Politics & History), and the London School of Economics (MSc, International Political Economy).
- Prior to becoming a writer, Tom worked as an advisor in the New South Wales Cabinet Office, producing briefing notes for ministers.
- *50 Self-Help Classics* took five years to write and research, and was the first guide to the self-help literature.

Praise for *50 Self-Help Classics*:

"It will soon become the 51st self-help classic!" - **Warren Bennis**, Professor of Business Administration, University of Southern California

"An exceptional and diverse collection for anyone interested in understanding the possibilities of the self" - **Ellen Langer**, Professor of Psychology, Harvard University

"A tremendous resource...Because the range and depth of sources are so huge, the cumulative reading effect is amazing. Alternatively, it educates and edifies, affirms and inspires. Often both" - **Stephen R Covey**, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*

***50 Success Classics*:**

"[Butler-Bowdon] writes with infectious enthusiasm...he is a true scholar of this type of literature" – **USAToday**

"A smorgasbord of some of the best thinking on what success really means" – **Ken Blanchard**, *The One Minute Manager*

"This incredible book gives you the very best of success literature ever written – in one easy book that you can read and reread for years" - **Brian Tracy**, *Maximum Achievement*

"I can't imagine anyone needing to read another success book after reading 50 Success Classics" – **Cheryl Richardson**, *Life Makeovers*

“Many thanks for *50 Success Classics*. Many of these works I have studied, enjoyed and learned from. It is a delight to see them all included in one volume, in which one can be exposed to numerous success ideas so conveniently. I shall be recommending this book to my readers worldwide” – **Catherine Ponder**, *Dynamic Laws of Prosperity*

50 Spiritual Classics:

"What an uplifting journey... If you only ever read one spiritual book, let it be this one. Tom Butler-Bowdon's insightful and inspirational commentaries cover an amazing range of ideas and writings. I predict that *50 Spiritual Classics* will become a classic in itself" -

Susan Jeffers, *Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway*

“A kaleidoscope of inspiration ... A unique overview of spirituality” - **Watkins Review**

50 Psychology Classics:

"A unique opportunity to become acquainted with a dazzling array of the key works in psychological literature almost overnight" - **Raj Persaud**, Gresham Professor for Public Understanding of Psychiatry

"Delightful book...a "must read" for students contemplating a career in psychology" -

VS Ramachandran, Director, Center for Brain and Cognition, University of California

"A brilliant synthesis" - **Douglas Stone**, Lecturer on Law, Harvard Law School

50 Prosperity Classics:

"A terrific compendium... distilled to the point of joyous clarity" - **Richard Koch**, *The 80/20 Principle*

"One of best books to read this summer...an inspirational amalgamation of commentaries of the best books on how to live an abundant life...a true jewel" - **The**

Harbus, Harvard Business School