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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **H.W. Wilson Announces the New Eighth Edition of *Famous First Facts***

*Famous First Facts* has been delivering fascinating “firsts” in history since 1933. For more than half a century, it has earned the accolades of reviewers and a place on library reference shelves nationwide. Last published 10 years ago, this new update is filled with over 9,000 entries- scientific, technological, and medical advances, political and legal firsts, and significant social and financial milestones – with more than 200 illustrations, and four indexes to assist readers in locating information.

Fields are updated with new information and key facts from 2015 to 2025:

- Updates of existing entries based on new developments and discoveries from the last 10 years.
- Hundreds of images of the individuals, inventions, and moments that are new firsts.
- Covers firsts from 10,000 B.C., the date of the earliest human artifacts found in America to 2025.
- A main subject index, plus geographical, name, and year indexes, offer researchers direct access to every included fact.

Topics in this new edition include, **Arts and Entertainment; Business and Industry; Daily Life; Education; Engineering; Government and Politics; Media and Communications; and much more.**

Entries are organized into 16 chapters, each of which is divided into a number of sections. These sections are arranged in alphabetical order; within each one, the entries are arranged in chronological order. In many cases in which an entry could potentially be placed in more than one chapter, priorities were established that will quickly become evident to the reader. At the back of the book, the reader will find four Indexes.

The **Subject Index** presents a straightforward account of all major subject terms that appear throughout the text. Each entry is indexed under one or more keywords. To prevent the Subject Index from becoming excessively large, the keywords have been chosen for the greatest possible precision. The other indexes included are: **Index By Year, Personal Name Index, and Geographical Index.**

## ***A Famous First Facts Sampler:***

**The first general anesthetic** was sulfuric ether, used by Dr. Crawford Williamson Long of Jefferson, GA, in December 1841. On March 30, 1842, he removed a cystic tumor about half an inch in diameter from the back of the neck of James M. Venable, applying ether under a towel. His bill for the operation amounted to \$2.25: for sulfuric ether 25 cents and for excising the tumor \$2. The discovery was not reported, however, until 1852, when the Georgia State Medical Society was notified.

**The first war that was predicted by pizza orders** was Operation Desert Storm, which was launched on Wednesday, January 16, 1991, by a United Nations coalition led by the United States. At 5 A.M. that morning, the Domino's Pizza fast-food chain put out a warning to its franchisees that war was likely later that day, based on record orders of pizza the previous night from the Pentagon. The Pentagon is the headquarters of the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C.

**The first endangered species to be cloned** was the gaur, a wild ox from Asia. On January 8, 2001, a male baby gaur was born to a cow that had served as his surrogate mother. He had been cloned by scientists led by Philip Damiani at Advanced Cell Technologies, Worcester, MA. The calf died of a bacterial infection two days after birth.

**The First known selfie** is considered to be a daguerreotype taken by Robert Cornelius of himself in October 1839 in his family's lamp and chandelier store in Philadelphia, PA. A daguerreotype is an early kind of photographic process that uses an iodine-sensitized silvered plate and mercury vapor to produce an image. To take his self-portrait, Cornelius had to sit for between 3 and 15 minutes to complete the necessary exposure time.

Filled with more than 1,000 new firsts, *Famous First Facts* is perfect for trivia buffs, students, scholars, librarians or anyone searching for an entertaining, informative source. This new edition of the reference classic is updated and expanded with new entries reflecting the latest developments and discoveries, and newly organized for easier access to information.

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*Famous First Facts, Eighth Edition*

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