

1763

Statement Under Oath of Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer Regarding Facts and Circumstances Relating to Exchange Act Filings

I, Thomas O. Ryder, state and attest that:

(1) To the best of my knowledge, based upon a review of the covered reports of The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., and, except as corrected or supplemented in a subsequent covered report:

- no covered report contained an untrue statement of a material fact as of the end of the period covered by such report (or in the case of a report on Form 8-K or definitive proxy materials, as of the date on which it was filed); and
- no covered report omitted to state a material fact necessary to make the statements in the covered report, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading as of the end of the period covered by such report (or in the case of a report on Form 8-K or definitive proxy materials, as of the date on which it was filed).

(2) I have reviewed the contents of this statement with the Company's audit committee.

(3) In this statement under oath, each of the following, if filed on or before the date of this statement, is a "covered report":

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002 of The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.;
- all reports on Form 10-Q, all reports on Form 8-K and all definitive proxy materials of The Reader's Digest Association, Inc. filed with the Commission subsequent to the filing of the Form 10-K identified above; and
- any amendments to any of the foregoing.

Thomas O. Ryder

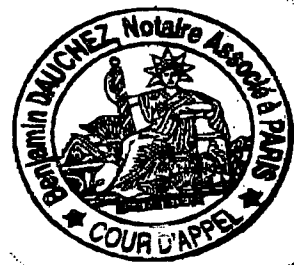
Thomas O. Ryder
September 24, 2002

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 24th day of
September 2002.

Benjamin Dauchez
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

[Handwritten signature]



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