The Oxford Companion To British Railway History From 1603 To The 1990s

Jack Simmons Gordon Biddle

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Directly and indirectly, railways changed Britain and the lives of its people more than any other product of the Industrial Revolution, shaping the country as we know it today. This encyclopaedia charts that progress, beginning with primitive 17th-century wagonways, passing on through the eras of horse, steam, diesel and electric traction, and charting the change from private and public ownership up to the privatizations of the late 1990s. Unrivalled authority. Over 600 entries by 88 distinguished contributors chart the progress of rail travel from 1603 to the late twentieth century. Comprehensive coverage. Covers not only the technical and historical development of the railway, but its social, economic, political, and artistic aspects. Illustrated throughout. Maps, diagrams, tables, and illustrations bring the text to life and demystify technical concepts. Jack Simmons, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Leicester, is the leading authority on British railway history and has published widely on the subject. Gordon Biddle is vice-president of the Railway and Canal Historical Society.