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THE STORY OF BRISTOL REPRINT

From the Middle Ages to Today

Brian Little and John Sansom

The *Story of Bristol* is a compact, well-illustrated and wide-ranging one-thousand-year history of the city John Betjeman preferred to Bath and which he famously described as the finest in England.

It tells the always fascinating, sometimes turbulent, story of Bristol from its earliest beginnings and its growth as a trading and maritime force, to become second only to London. John Cabot and others sailed from here, on voyages of discovery which put Bristol in the forefront of the nation's affairs.

We see Bristol in religious turmoil and civil war, and trace its links with the Americas and its involvement in the infamous slave trade. These years saw the building of the great Georgian houses and terraces which remain the visual heritage of Bristol's heyday. The authors cover religious dissent, John Wesley's pioneering work in the West Country, social unrest and the Bristol Riots of 1831, and the key role which Bristol played in the flowering of literary romanticism; the precocious boy-poet, Thomas Chatterton, penned his verses in the shadow of St Mary Redcliffe church, and Coleridge and Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads* were first published in Bristol in 1798.

The engineering genius Isambard Kingdom Brunel features prominently, creating the Great Western Railway, building great ships in Bristol and designing the elegant Clifton Suspension Bridge. We see the rise and fall of Bristol's traditional industries, notably tobacco, and the rise of new enterprises, leading ultimately to Bristol's re-emergence as a flourishing, vibrant and great European city.

Bryan Little enjoyed a national reputation as a writer and lecturer on history, architecture and related topics. His works include *Bath Portrait* (1961), *Churches in Bristol* and (with Jenner and Gomme) *Bristol: An Architectural History* (1979).

John Sansom is a publisher and editor, specialising in Bristol and British art of the past 120 years. He lives in Clifton.



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An unintended memorial to Bristol's part in the inhuman transatlantic slave trade



The elegant Clifton Suspension Bridge over the Avon Gorge.



Imaginary scene from the childhood of the precocious poet Thomas Chatterton painted by Henrietta Ward in 1873.



Bristol cathedral: the south aisle.



This 1918 painting by W.H.Y. Titcomb depicts John Wesley preaching in St Mark's before the Mayor and Corporation of Bristol in 1788.