

MANCHESTER - THE GREAT CITY

Mike Heath

Manchester is a relatively new city. It was not until the eighteenth century that this once inconspicuous medieval settlement came to the world's attention for the manufacture of cotton earning it the colloquial name of 'Cottonopolis'. Its development at the forefront of the industrial revolution rapidly formed the foundations for the great city we see today. The wealth generated by Victorian industry tended to be re-invested locally as evidenced in the grand buildings with their magnificent interiors that still stand today. A number of cotton magnates also left financial legacies for the founding of colleges, libraries and galleries, which have enriched the lives of generations ever since. These historic structures rear proudly in and amongst the glass-clad buildings of more recent architectural styles.

The City's 'Coat Of Arms', granted in 1842, proclaims Manchester as 'a city of global trade and industry, built on extreme courage, bravery, strength and discipline and filled with peace and harmony'. This is no exaggerated boast as Mike Heath's photographic journey around the city proves.

It includes images of Manchester's shiny new structures with their state-of-the-art architecture, rejuvenated Victorian buildings complete with their flamboyant interiors, nineteenth century institutions that have stood the test of time, road, rail and water transport past and present, and covers some the major annual events that bring this vibrant city to life all year round.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Mike Heath's specialism is photographing Heritage Railways up and down the country. Having amassed a vast collection of atmospheric photographs, covering all aspects of preserved railways, selections from Mike's portfolio have already been seen in previous books in the Halsgrove Railway Series.

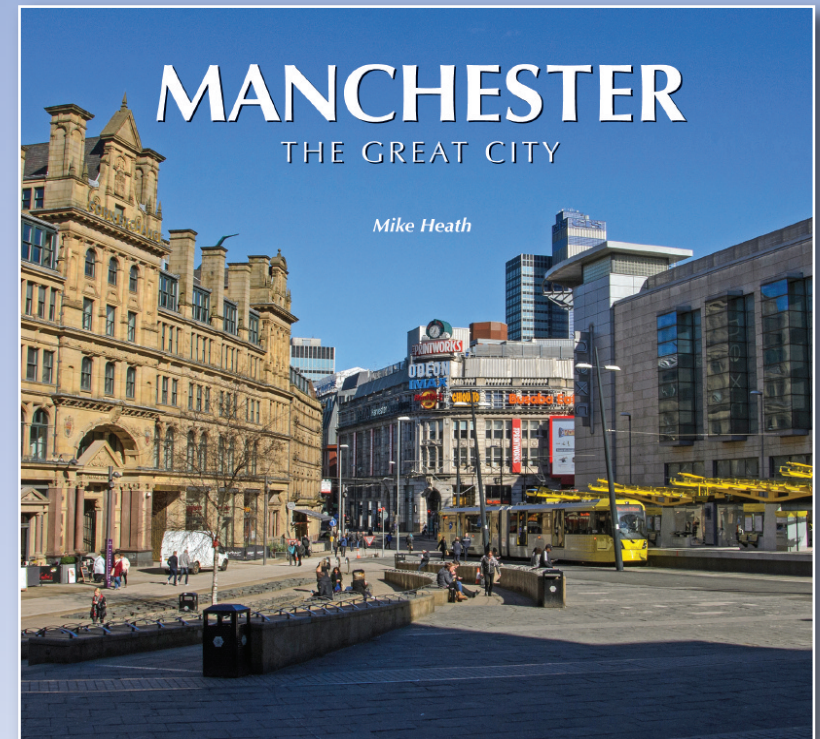
In 2008 Mike, ventured into night-time cityscape photography culminating in his first non-railway book *Manchester Illuminated* published by Halsgrove the following year. This was followed by the hugely popular *Spirit of Manchester* under Halsgrove's Pixz imprint.

He has since made many trips into Manchester to not only record the latest new developments in the city but also look in more detail at the rejuvenated historic buildings around which it has grown. The stunning images in *Manchester – The Great City* are the result of these visits and capture the reinvigorated city centre, its industrial heritage, the various communities that live and work there and the events that they, and visitors, can enjoy all year round.

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Above: At 48 floors high Beetham Tower is the tallest skyscraper in Manchester. The twenty third floor is the location for the Cloud 23 bar from where, during the day, you can enjoy afternoon tea, with panoramic city views, from the comfort of an armchair.



Left: Coronation Street. Probably the most famous fictional street in the United Kingdom.

Below right: Mr. Thomas's Chop House



Right: URBIS – The National Football Museum



Below: Afflecks. An indoor market that is for those looking for something a bit different.



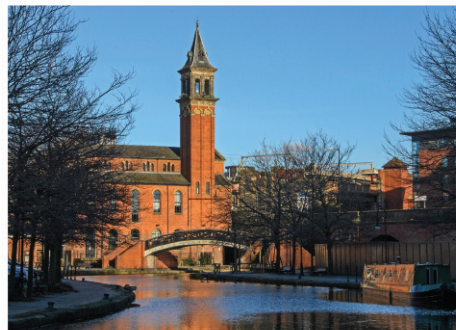
Example of a double-page spread.



Below: Having been disused for many years, the condition of the Cornbrook and Great Northern Railway Station was revived when a route for the Abrahams branch of the Metrolink was sought. The Cornbrook Viaduct was found to be in better condition and was refurbished 1990-91. The line to Abrahams opened the following year.



Left: It is not only the vacant warehouses that have provided space for the new bars and restaurants. As in many other locations around the city, the arches beneath the railway have been transformed to create trendy canal-side establishments.



At the end of the basin is another 'new' footbridge. The Grosier's Footbridge, erected in 1995, is adjacent to the site of the Grosier's Warehouse that was one of the first large warehouses built on the basin. In 1811 it was sold to the Manchester Grocers Company (hence the name) and from here vessels sailed daily to and from the company's wharf in Liverpool. The original warehouse was demolished in 1962 but a partial reconstruction, not all seen to the left of the chapel, was carried out in 1987. The Congregational Chapel, which still dates from 1858, has had a very interesting recent history. In the 1980s Rex Williams converted it into a recording studio and for a while many of the popular music hits recorded under the Stock, Aitken and Waterman banner were recorded here. It has since been redeveloped into offices.



Manchester Town Hall and Albert Square. The grandest and most imposing building in the region.