

The best books on I.K. Brunel and his achievements. The 19th century books are available as facsimile reprints.

Biographies of I.K. Brunel and his father, Sir Marc Isambard Brunel

Harold Bagust and Heinz Wolff, *The greater genius? A biography of Marc Isambard Brunel* Hersham, 2006.

Richard Beamish, *Memoir of the life of Sir Marc Isambard Brunel* London, 1862.

*Beamish was the longest-standing resident engineer on the Thames Tunnel under M.I. Brunel and knew him well.

Angus Buchanan, *The life and times of Isambard Kingdom Brunel* London, 2001.

Steven Brindle, *Brunel, the man who built the world* London, 2005.

*Written for the bi-centenary of Brunel's birth in 1806. Contains magnificent coloured illustrations.

Isambard Brunel, *The life of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Civil Engineer* London, 1870; [reprint Brora, 2004.]

*The first biography of I.K. Brunel by his son. Extremely detailed and a standard source for studies on Brunel. Sets out to promote Brunel at the expense of others.

Roger Burdett Wilson (ed.) *Sir Daniel Gooch, memoirs and diary* Newton Abbot, 1972.

*Gooch was responsible, under Brunel, for developing the locomotive fleet for the Great Western Railway.

Paul Clements, *Marc Isambard Brunel* London, 1970.

*Quotes extensively from the many diaries kept by both Brunels during the construction of the Thames Tunnel.

Celia Brunel Noble, *The Brunels, father and son* London, 1938.

*Written by Brunel's granddaughter, it contains a lot of personal family details.

L.T.C. Rolt, *Isambard Kingdom Brunel*. Various editions 1957-present.

*Although some of Rolt's research has been superseded, this is still the most readable of all the biographies and the easiest way in to the subject.

Adrian Vaughan, *Isambard Kingdom Brunel: Engineering Knight-Errant* London, 1991.

*Sets out to point out Brunel's many flaws as a change from the usual 'Brunel as the greatest' approach.

Railways

Christopher Awdry, *Brunel's Broad Gauge Railway* Sparkford. 1992

*An excellent survey of the broad gauge from its inception, produced for the centenary of its abolition.

John Binding, *Brunel's Temple Meads Station* Oxford, 2001

*Detailed history of the design and construction of the first GWR station at Bristol

John Binding, *Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge* Truro, 1997

*A detailed history of the design and construction of Brunel's bridge at Saltash

Steven Brindle, *Paddington Station: its history and architecture Swindon*, Historic England, 2013

*Describing the development of both Brunel's original 1838 'wooden' terminus and its 1854 replacement the book contains much original material drawn from archive sources

Tim Bryan, *T. Broad Gauge Railways* Oxford, 2018

*A concise history of Brunel's broad gauge

David Clifford, *Isambard Kingdom Brunel: The Construction of the Great Western Railway*. Caversham, 2006

*A detailed chronicle of the construction of the original GWR line using much original GWR correspondence

Keith Falconer & John Cattell, *Swindon: Legacy of a Railway Town*. Swindon, 2000

*Contains much information about Brunel's work at Swindon: the railway works, village and station

E.T MacDermot, & C.R Clinker, *A History of the Great Western Railway 1833-1863*. Shepperton. Ian Allan 1972

*Originally commissioned by the GWR in 1927 MacDermot remains the standard work on the history of the railway

George A. Sekon, *A History of the Great Western Railway: being the story of the Broad Gauge* London, 1895

*Sekon a pen name for George Nokes, (founding editor of the Railway Magazine) produced a chronicle of the GWR in 1895 that was critical of Brunel and his innovations

Adrian Vaughan, *A Pictorial Record of Great Western Architecture*. Oxford, 1977

*Despite being long out of print, still an important reference work with detailed information about Brunel bridges, stations and other structures

Archibald Williams, *Brunel and After: The Romance of the Great Western Railway*. Paddington, 1925

*produced by the GWR publicity department the book toes the 'company line' but is nevertheless an interesting read

The ships

Ewan Corlett, *The iron ship. The history and significance of Brunel's Great Britain* Corsham, 2012 (latest ed.)

*Ground-breaking study and reference work of the SS Great Britain.

Helen Doe, *The First Atlantic Liner: Brunel's Great Western Steamship* Stroud, 2017

*Includes passenger accounts.

George S. Emmerson, *John Scott Russell, A Great Victorian Engineer and Architect* London, 1977.

*Biography of Brunel's co-engineer on the Great Eastern project. Provides opposition to L.T.C Rolt's account, boosting Russell at Brunel's expense.

Stephen Fox, *The Ocean Railway: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Samuel Cunard and the Revolutionary World of the Great Atlantic Steamships* London, 2003.

*Provides an honest account of the role of Brunel's ships in the history of the passenger trade.

Richard Goold-Adams, *The return of the 'Great Britain'* London, 1976.

*Epic account of how the ship came back to Bristol from the Falkland Island.

Dennis Griffiths, *Brunel's 'Great Western'* Wellingborough, 1985.

*Outstanding and full account of the construction, life time and details of Brunel's first ship, including technical and financial data

Andrew Lambert, Dennis Griffiths and Fred Walker, *Brunel's ships* London, 1999.

*Contextualizes Brunel's ships and their construction within 19th C. naval engineering; extensive accounts of Brunel's relations with the Navy.

Chris Young, *The Incredible Journey: The ss Great Britain Story, 1970-2010* Bristol, 2010.

*Picks up where Goold-Adams ends: the story of the SS Great Britain's re-purposing into the modern museum ship at the Great Western Dockyard.

Regional histories:

R.A. Buchanan, *Brunel's Bristol* Bristol, 1982.

John Christopher, *Brunel In London*. Stroud, 2014

*includes material describing not only the Thames Tunnel and the Great Eastern but Brunel's work on the Crystal Palace and Hungerford Bridge

Stephen K. Jones *Brunel in South Wales: In Trevithick's Tracks*, [Vol. 1] Stroud, 2005.

- *Brunel in South Wales: Communications and Coal* [Vol.2] Stroud, 2006.

- *Brunel in South Wales: Links with Leviathans* [Vol. 3] Stroud, 2009.

Geoffrey Tudor, Geoffrey, *The Brunel's in Torquay*. Torquay Natural History Society, 1989

*a brief survey of Brunel's legacy in the Devon resort and his plans for his house at Watcombe

Other Related books:

Adrian Andrews & Michael Pascoe. *The Clifton Suspension Bridge*. Bristol, 2008

*Well-illustrated story of the Clifton Bridge

Gillian Cookson, *The Cable: The Wire That Changed the World*. Stroud, 2003

*the dramatic story of how the first transatlantic telegraph cable was laid and the role of the SS Great Eastern

C.J. Long, *The History of the Clifton Suspension Bridge*. Bristol, 1967

*locally produced brief survey of the history of the Clifton Suspension Bridge

Chris Morris, *The Great Brunel*

*Notable for its excellent coloured illustrations of surviving bridges, stations etc.

Alfred Pugsley (ed). *The works of Isambard Kingdom Brunel*.

*A series of essays written by a group of engineers. The only book to look at Brunel's works in technical detail, critically examining them in terms of the engineering knowledge of his own time and of the present.