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978-0-521-66737-1 - The Rise of the English Town, 1650–1850

Christopher Chalklin

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Maurice Kirby

Lancaster University

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The Rise of the English Town, 1650–1850

Prepared for the Economic History Society by

Christopher Chalklin

formerly of Reading University



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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> vii
1 The rise of urban England, 1650–1750	1
The network of towns in 1650	1
Urban prosperity and change, 1650–1750	5
2 The expansion of English towns, 1750–1850	9
London, county centres and market towns	9
Manufacturing towns, ports and resorts	12
3 Some general aspects of urban life	17
Population: birth, marriage and death, and migration	17
Wealth, incomes and living standards	20
Means of livelihood	23
Population density and social segregation	26
4 The building of towns	29
Building materials, house construction and streets	29
Land developers, house-builders and investment	34
Public buildings, harbours, docks and factories	39
Building and urban growth	44
5 The elite and middle orders: social background	47
Leisured people	47
The middle orders or classes: education and training, religion, and living and working conditions	48
6 The elite and middle orders: entertainment, social relations and public duties	55

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[More information](#)

<i>vi</i>	<i>Contents</i>	
	Recreations and other interests	55
	Town government and politics	58
7	The lower orders	66
	Work, food and poor relief	66
	Schooling, beliefs and amusements	68
	Crime and violence	70
	The rise of working clubs and unions	72
	Conclusion	76
	<i>Appendices</i>	77
	<i>Bibliography</i>	81
	<i>Index</i>	95

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[More information](#)

Preface

In the last three decades urban history has become an important branch of historical study. Following the example of agricultural history with *The Agrarian History of England and Wales* series and the *Agricultural History Review*, it has produced the journal *Urban History* and now *The Cambridge Urban History of Britain* in three volumes. Scholarly monographs and papers, some on individual towns and urban regions and others with national urban themes, have become numerous. These deal especially with social, economic, political or administrative history, or with a combination of these.

This book surveys the social and economic growth of towns between 1650 and 1850, drawing particularly on this huge recent literature. Controversial interpretations based on different approaches or research material are mentioned and the bibliography lists some 200 more important titles. The book follows the shorter *Decline and Growth in English Towns, 1400–1640* by A. Dyer in the series.

I taught a different version of this topic as a special subject for history students at Reading University for twenty-five years. Since 1968 I have published books and articles on the subject, especially, though not exclusively, on aspects of building. For this book I owe much over some years to the help of the former editor of the series, Dr Michael Sanderson, and recently to his successor Professor Maurice Kirby; to the thorough analysis of several anonymous referees; and to the care of the staff of Cambridge University Press.

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