

Derek Wilson

Author

Derek Wilson was one of Britain's leading popular historians. Since leaving Cambridge, where he took the Archbishop Cranmer Prize for post-graduate research, he wrote over 50 books including Britain's Rottenest Years (Short Books), Rothschild: A Story of Wealth and Power and Hans Holbein: Portrait of an Unknown Man, as well as making numerous radio and TV appearances.



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Publications

Other

Publication Details	Notes
SUPERSTITION AND SCIENCE, 1450-1750 2017 Robinson, Little Brown	A multi-faceted story of heroes and villains, mystics and sceptics, earnest seekers of truth and charlatans, a narrative that bristles with the names of remarkable scholars, many famous, some now obscure.
MRS LUTHER AND HER SISTERS: WOMEN OF THE REFORMATION 2016 Lion Hudson	Derek Wilson looks at some of the key areas of women's involvement in the Reformation, considering their family roles, the influence of women who held power, and those who were able study in more depth; and the roles of women who were prophets, mystics, polemicists, philanthropists and martyrs.

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ELIZABETHAN SOCIETY: HIGH AND LOW LIFE 1558-1603 2014 Robinson, Little Brown	Derek Wilson skilfully interweaves the personal histories of twenty or so figures - including Nicholas Bacon, the Statesman; Bess of Hardwick, the Landowner; Thomas Gresham, 'the Financier'; John Caius, 'the Doctor'; John Norreys, 'the Soldier'; and Nicholas Jennings, 'the Professional Criminal' - with the major themes of the period to create a vivid and compelling account of life in England in the late sixteenth century.
CALAMITIES AND CATASTROPHES: THE TEN ABSOLUTELY WORST YEARS IN HISTORY 2011 Short Books	In ten lucid and entertaining chapters, Wilson identifies the very worst years of human history, from the destruction of the Roman Empire in 541 through the march on Leningrad in 1942 to the Vietnam War of 1968. Condensing two thousand years of war, plague, misrule and political villainy, he identifies the traitors, scumbags and villains, whose lust for power and sometimes, sheer incompetence brought such terror to their times. He delves into the natural forces beyond human control that have wiped out whole peoples. And, most of all, he shows how history has a horrible habit of repeating itself.
THE PLANTAGENETS: THE KINGS THAT MADE BRITAIN 2011 Quercus	The Plantagenets: The Kings That Made Britain is a compelling, year-by-year chronology of a tumultuous and critical period in the development of the English nation. Each year is covered by a concise, informative and accessible narrative, amplified by extensive quotation from contemporary sources and accompanied by generously captioned and stunning images of the period - including illuminations, portraits, maps, royal seals, tapestries and other artefacts.
THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE: THE REMARKABLE HISTORY OF THE KING JAMES VERSION 2010 Lion Hudson	The finest scholars in England laboured for seven years to produce what we know as the King James or Authorised Version of the Bible. Yet its launch could scarcely have been less propitious. Despite its titles, the king did nothing to promote it and he certainly did not 'authorise' it. Its publisher went bankrupt and it was half a century before this Bible won the affection of the British people. So, how come this book became the biggest best-seller of all time and a vehicle of British culture right round the world?
TUDOR ENGLAND 2010 Shire Books	This book offers insights into the world of Tudor England - revealing what it was really like to live in a period of great growth, and the difference between living in the city and the country.
BRITAIN'S ROTTENEST YEARS 2009 Short Books	Try 1349 (the black death), or 1536 (the year the king went mad...), or 1720 (when a biblical fog descended on England for months and literally laid waste to the nation). The fact is that rat for rat, recession for recession, gory death for gory death, the ten really rotten years featured in this book beat our current travails hands down.

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THE ASTORS: LANDSCAPE WITH MILLIONAIRES 1993 Weidenfeld	
EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE 1983 Macmillan	
REFORMATION: Christianity and the World 1500-2000 1996 Bantam	(Co-author with Felipe Fernandez-Armesto) This work presents an account of 500 years of controversy within the Christian Church.
HANS HOLBEIN - Portrait of an Unknown Man 1996 Weidenfeld	The first biography of Holbein in 50 years, revealing his involvement with the great religious and political movements of the day.
HENRY VIII - KING, REFORMER, TYRANT 2009 Constable and Robinson	A brilliant new history of the life of Henry VIII to celebrate the 500th anniversary of his accession
THE BEAR'S WHELP 1979 Harpercollins	
PETER THE GREAT: A FURIOUS MAN 2007 Hutchinson	A study in three parts: Russian leaders in the 17th century, an air of greatness (the young tsar), and father of his country (Peter in his maturity)
FRANCIS WALSINGHAM - Courtier in an Age of Terror 2007 Constable	
OUT OF THE STORM: The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther 2007 Hutchinson	In "Out of the Storm", Derek Wilson offers a fresh assessment of Luther and his place in history. In doing so he also reveals the man: ebullient, depressive, good humoured, vituperative, stubborn and vulgar, a staunch friend, an implacable enemy.
THE UNCROWNED KINGS OF ENGLAND: The Black Legend of the Dudleys. 2005 Constable	A study of the Dudley family at the centre of court and council in the political ferment of the Tudor century.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CIRCUMNAVIGATORS - The pioneer voyagers who set off around the globe 2003 Robinson	
IN THE LIONS COURT: POWER, AMBITION AND SUDDEN DEATH IN THE COURT OF HENRY VIII 2001 Hutchinson	This work examines a set of relationships that illustrate just how dangerous life was at the court of Henry VIII
THE KING AND THE GENTLEMAN 1999 Hutchinson	The first half of the 17th century basically constituted the conflict between Charles Stuart and Oliver Cromwell. This is a study of the era and issues.
DARK AND LIGHT: THE GUINNESS STORY 1998 Weidenfeld	Through three main narrative threads, concentrating on the family's brewing, banking and missionary interests, this book traces the history of the rise of the Guinness family.
THE TOWER OF LONDON 1998 Allison and Busby	Third revised edition of Wilson's "TOWER: 1078-1978". All the latest information and anecdotes about those who have found themselves residing in the Tower.
THE WORLD ENCOMPASSED: DRAKE'S GREAT VOYAGE 1577-1580 1998 Allison and Busby	A day-by-day account of Drake's voyage in The Golden Hind.
SWEET ROBIN 1997 Allison & Busby	First published in 1981 by Hamish Hamilton this biography of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester traces his life and achievements.