

James Bettley

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Publishing

English Churches in Europe

An architectural and social history

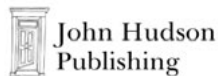


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English Churches in Europe

An architectural and social history

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Although Anglican worship in mainland Europe began in Calais, an English possession, at the Reformation, it was from 1815, with peace in Europe, that the British began to travel and settle in greater numbers. Where they travelled, they took the Church of England. Worshippers often met in hotel rooms or spaces shared with other denominations. Other churches were funded by subscription or by hoteliers keen to attract English guests. Both local and British architects were engaged including notables such as G. E. Street and A. W. Blomfield, and though some churches displayed architectural influences from the host country, others look as if they could have been transplanted from an English village or suburb.

From the Riviera and the Alps, as far as Archangel, by 1914 there were nearly 300 English churches in Europe; many are still in use today. In this lively account, illustrated with over 500 historical and contemporary images and a comprehensive gazetteer, James Bettley tells the story of Anglican worship over four centuries. He not only documents the buildings but also describes how congregations emerged and the challenges faced by the Church of England in regulating activities over vast distances. He paints a picture of life in which worship, travel and expatriate life were intertwined in a way unfamiliar today, and of the larger-than-life characters whose energy, devotion and money resulted in so many English churches being built in Europe.

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260 x 210mm, 500 pages, over 500 illustrations

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