



Englishness Identified: Manners and Character 1650-1850

By Paul Langford

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Between 1650 and 1850 perceptions of the English were transformed, as a nation of supposed barbarians, fanatics, and king-killers evolved into a world power of political maturity, imperial grandeur, and industrial might. *Englishness Identified* traces the evolution of the so-called English national character through the impressions and analyses of foreign observers, and relates it to English ambitions and anxieties during a period of rapid change.

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Review

‘This is a fascinating panorama of what the English have thought about themselves and what foreigners have thought about us in the period... appetising food for thought on almost every page.’

John Jolliffe, *Country Life*

‘One of the many pleasures Langford’s book affords us is the ability to track the longevity of national characteristics that we may believe are of more recent origin.’

Daily Telegraph

‘Very enjoyable book.’

Peter Vansittart, *Spectator*

‘This is a serious work, from a serious author.’

Charles Spencer, *The Mail on Sunday*

‘This wonderful book brings such detail and generalisation together by being organised not chronologically but by ‘six major supposed traits of Englishness’: Energy, Candour, Decency, Taciturnity, Reserve, Eccentricity. Langford has read widely and unpredictably, especially in accounts that have never been translated into English. This has allowed him to produce a book that is, in one respect, brilliantly un-English: it is fascinated by what foreigners have thought.’

The Guardian

‘Paul Langford is a phenomenon ... he seizes many opportunities to take us down highways and byways of eighteenth-century manners ... Enjoyable and instructive commentaries are provided on all manner of local quirks ... they make for a rich tapestry for cultural commentary on English manners, and an engrossing read.’

Peter Mandler

‘Interesting and enjoyable book.’

Peter Clark, *TLS* 06/10/00

‘interesting and enjoyable book.’

Paul Langford, *Times Literary Supplement*, 6th Oct. 2000.

‘Langford sets out to prove his case in a robust, no-nonsense, thoroughly empirical manner.’

David Bell, *London Review of Books*, 14/12/00.

‘Langford has found some real gems in his vast mine of material.’

David Bell, *London Review of Books*, 14/12/00.

About the Author

Paul Langford, Chief Executive, Arts and Humanities Research Board; Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford.

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