

North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers
Nicholas Wood Memorial Library

History of mining in the UK

some useful books

This list has books in the NEIMME Library that cover various aspects of the history of all types of mining in the UK. Most are secondary histories, but a few are older books giving a contemporary view of mining.

To give a broad coverage some books – marked with * - are included that are NOT held in the Institute Library. They may be in other local libraries.

Coal: general

Arnot, R. P. *The miners: a history of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, 1889-1910.* 1949

Arnot, R. P. *The miners: years of struggle: a history of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain from 1910 onwards.* 1953.

Arnot, R. P. *The miners: in crisis and war: a history of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain from 1930 onwards.* 1961.

Arnot, R. P. *The miners: one union, one industry. A history of the National Union of Mineworkers 1939-46.* 1979.

Ashton, T. S. & Sykes, J. *The coal industry of the eighteenth century.* 1929.

Ashworth, W. & Pegg, M. *The history of the British coal industry. Vol 5: 1946-1982: the nationalized industry.* 1986.

Benson, J. *British coalminers in the nineteenth century: a social history.* 1989.

Boyd, R.N. *Coal pits and pitmen: a short history of the coal trade and legislation affecting it.* 1895.

Buxton, N.K. *The economic development of the British coal industry: from Industrial Revolution to the present day.* 1979.

*Church, R., Hall, A. & Kanefsky, J. *The history of the British coal industry. Vol 3: 1830-1913: Victorian pre-eminence.* 1986.

Dennis, N. *Coal is our life: an analysis of a Yorkshire mining community.* 1956.

*Dintenfass, M. *Managing industrial decline: the British coal industry between the wars.* 1992.

Online at <https://ohiostatepress.org/index.htm?/books/book%20pages/dintenfass%20managing.htm>

Flinn, M. & Stoker, D. *The history of the British coal industry. Vol 2: 1700-1830: The Industrial Revolution.* 1984.

Galloway, R.L. *Annals of coal mining and the coal trade.* First series [to 1835] 1898; Second series. [1835-80] 1904, reprinted 1971.

Gee, P. *One hundred questions and answers about coal.* 1938.

*Griffin, A. R. *Coalmining.* 1971.

*Griffin, A. R. *The British coalmining industry: retrospect and prospect.* 1977.

*Hatcher, J. *The history of the British coal industry. Vol. 1: Before 1700: towards the age of coal.* 1993.

- Hill, A. *Coal - a chronology for Britain*. Northern Mine Research Society, 2012
- Holland, J. *The history and description of fossil fuel, the collieries and coal trade of Great Britain*. 2nd ed 1841.
Also online at Open Library: <http://tinyurl.com/Holland1841>
- Jevons, H.S. *The British coal trade*. 1920, reprinted 1969.
- *Kirby, M.W. *The British coalmining industry, 1870-1946: a political and economic history*. 1977.
- Leifchild, J. R. *Our coal and our coal-pits; the people in them and the scenes around them*. 2nd ed, 1856, reprinted 1968.
- *Lewis, B. *Coal mining in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries*. 1971.
- Meade, R. *Coal and iron industries of the United Kingdom*. 1882.
- Mining Association of Great Britain *Historical review of coal mining*. 1924.
- *Mitchell, B.R. *Economic development of the British coal industry 1800 - 1914*. 1984.
- Montgomery, G. *A mining chronicle: annals of the coal mining industry of Great Britain from earliest times to 1984*. 1994.
- Nef, J. U. *Rise of the British coal industry*. 2v. 1932.
- Redmayne, R.A.S. *The British coal-mining industry during the war*. 1923.
- *Supple, B. *The history of the British coal industry. Vol 4: 1913-1946: the political economy of decline*. 1987.
- Townshend-Rose, H. *The British coal industry*. 1951.
- Zweig, F. *Men in the pits*. 1948.

Coal: North East

- Archer, M. *A sketch of the history of the coal trade of Northumberland and Durham. Part 1, being to the year A.D. 1700*. 1897.
- Atkinson, F. *The Great Northern coalfield, 1700-1900*. 1968.
- Bulmer, M. (Ed) *Mining and social change: Durham County in the twentieth century*. 1978
- Colls, R. *The pitmen of the northern coalfield: work, culture and protest, 1790-1850*. 1987
- Crookston, P. *The pitmen's requiem*. 2010.
- Davison, J. *Northumberland miners: 1919-1939*. 1973.
- Fordyce, W. *A history of coal, coke, coalfields and iron manufacture in Northern England*. 1860, reprinted 1973.
- Fynes, R. *The miners of Northumberland and Durham: a history of their social and political progress*. 1873, reprinted 1985.
Also online at Open Library: <http://tinyurl.com/Fynes1873>
- *Garside, W. R., *The Durham Miners, 1919-1960*. 1971.
- Hair, T. H. *Sketches of the coal mines in Northumberland and Durham*. 1839, reprinted 1987
- Kirkup, M. *Eyewitness: the Great Northern coalfield*. 1999.
- Smith, K and Smith, J. *The Great Northern miners*. 2008.
- Turnbull, L. *Coals from Newcastle. An introduction to the Northumberland and Durham coalfield*. 2009.
- *Welbourne, R. *The Miners' Union of Northumberland and Durham*. 1923.
Online at Open Library: <http://tinyurl.com/Welbourne1923>
- Wilson, J.H. *A history of the Durham Miners' Association 1870-1904*. 1907.

Metal

- Barton, D.B. *Essays in Cornish mining history* 2v, 1968
- *Barton, D. B. *A history of copper mining in Cornwall and Devon*. 2nd ed 1968.
- Barton, D. B. *A history of tin mining and smelting in Cornwall*. 1989.
- Buckley, A. *The story of mining in Cornwall*. 2005.

- Burt, R. *A short history of British metal mining technology in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries*. 1982.
- Burt, R. *The British lead mining industry*. 1984.
- *Earl, B. *Cornish mining: the techniques of metal mining in the west of England past and present*. 2nd ed 1994.
- Foster, C.L.N. *A textbook of ore and stone mining*. 1895, 3rd ed 1900, 4th ed 1901, 6th ed 1905.
- Hunt, C. J. *The lead miners of the Northern Pennines in the eighteenth and nineteenth century*. 1984.
- Hunt, R. *British mining: a treatise on the history, discovery, practical development and future prospects of metalliferous mines in the United Kingdom*. 1884.
- Jenkin, A.K.H. *The Cornish miner: an account of his life above and underground from early times*. 3rd ed 1962.
- *Pike, J.R. *Britain's metal mines: A complete guide to their laws, usages, localities and statistics* 6th ed 1871, reprinted 1987.
- Raistrick, A. & Jennings, B. *A history of lead mining in the Pennines*, 2nd ed, 1973.
- Raistrick, A. *Lead mining in the mid Pennines: the mines of Nidderdale, Wharfedale, Airedale, Ribblesdale and Bowland*, 1973.
- Raistrick, A. *The lead industry of Wensleydale and Swaledale : Vol 1 - The Mines*, 1975.
- Richardson, J.B. *Metal mining*. 1974.
- Samuel, R. *Miners, quarrymen and saltworkers* 1977
- Shaw, W.T. *Mining in the Lake Counties*. 2nd ed, 1972.
- Turnbull, L. *History of lead mining in the North East of England*. 2008.

Bibliographies

Printed

- Benson, J., Thompson, C.H. & Neville, R.G. *Bibliography of the British coal industry*. 1981.
- Burt, R. & Waite, P. *Bibliography of the history of British metal mining*. 1988.
- Galloway, R.L. *Annals of coal mining and the coal trade*. - v1 of the 1971 reprint has a bibliography in the introduction.

Online

- Linsley, S.M. *The Coal Industry - A Select Bibliography* Durham Mining Museum
<http://www.dmm.org.uk/misc/biblio.htm>
- Mining History Network *Bibliography of British Mining History: Published Since 1987*
<http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/mhn/bibtoc.html>
- Mining History Network *Working bibliography of the history of coal miners and coal mining in North East England: County Durham and Northumberland*.
<http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/mhn/NEcoal.html>