

The Golden Era of British Buses And Coaches: A Nostalgic Journey Through the Late 1970s



BRITISH BUSES AND COACHES
IN THE LATE 1970s

STEPHEN DOWLE

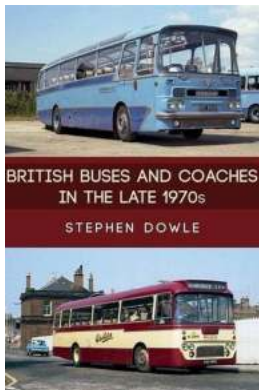


The late 1970s witnessed a remarkable period for British buses and coaches, where these iconic vehicles thrived both in popularity and design prowess. From

the distinctive Routemaster buses roaming the bustling streets of London to the cozy coaches exploring the picturesque countryside, this was a golden era that transport enthusiasts still cherish today. Join us on a nostalgic journey back in time as we explore the captivating world of British buses and coaches in the late 1970s. So, sit back, relax, and let's embark on this virtual tour through history.

The Iconic Routemaster Buses Dominating London's Streets

When picturing London, the image of the legendary red Routemaster buses instantly comes to mind. These double-decker marvels, with their bright red exterior and open-platform design, were a symbol of the city. Manufactured by AEC and London Transport, the Routemasters were an integral part of London's transportation system, and their popularity remained unmatched throughout the late 1970s.



British Buses and Coaches in the Late 1970s

by Susan Kennedy (Paperback – September 15, 2018)

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Wandering the busy streets of London, one could not miss the distinctive sound of the Routemaster engines or the familiar "ding-ding" sound of the conductor's

bell. Passengers enjoyed the unique experience of hopping on and off from the open rear platform, creating a sense of connection with the bustling city. These buses offered an unparalleled view of the city's iconic landmarks, from Buckingham Palace to Tower Bridge, making every journey a memorable adventure.

Exploring the Countryside in Comfort and Style

While the Routemaster buses dominated cityscapes, the late 1970s also marked a significant era for coaches exploring the vast British countryside. From scenic tours to long-distance travel, coaches provided a comfortable and stylish means of transportation for both locals and tourists alike.

Coach manufacturers like Leyland and Bristol played a pivotal role in shaping the industry, introducing innovative designs and advanced features. The coaches' interiors boasted plush seating, ample legroom, and large panoramic windows that showcased the breathtaking British landscapes. Passengers could sit back and relax, enjoying the picturesque scenery passing by as they embarked on their journeys.

A Melting Pot of Design Excellence

The late 1970s witnessed a remarkable convergence of diverse bus and coach designs, reflecting the era's creative spirit. From the classic red Routemasters to modern and sleek coach designs, this period showcased the British talent and innovation within the industry.

One of the standout designs of the late 1970s was the Leyland National, a revolutionary bus model that combined functionality with aesthetic appeal. With its angular shape, large windows, and spacious interior, the Leyland National represented the cutting edge of bus design during this era. Its lightweight

construction and fuel efficiency made it a popular choice among operators nationwide.

The Legacy Lives On

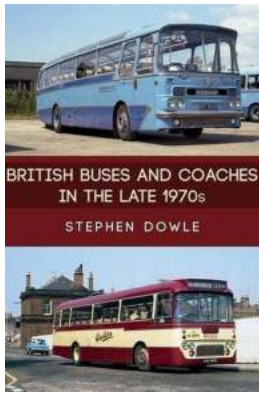
Though the late 1970s marked the peak of British buses and coaches, their legacy lives on and continues to inspire the modern transportation industry. The Routemaster buses, for instance, still serve nostalgically-inclined Londoners and tourists on specific heritage routes, reminding everyone of the timeless charm these beloved vehicles hold.

Additionally, the spirit of innovation and elegance from the late 1970s has carried through to modern times in various forms. The demand for comfortable and environmentally-friendly travel experiences has given rise to hybrid and electric buses and coaches, carrying the torch of British engineering excellence into the future.

Fond Memories and Timeless Icons

The late 1970s were undoubtedly a remarkable period in British bus and coach history. The Routemaster buses and coaches of the time captured the hearts and imaginations of an entire generation, leaving behind a legacy that remains cherished to this day. From the bustling streets of London to the tranquil countryside, these vehicles took passengers on unforgettable journeys filled with memories that will withstand the test of time.

So, join us in celebrating the golden era of British buses and coaches in the late 1970s and let the fond memories of these timeless icons transport you back to a bygone era.



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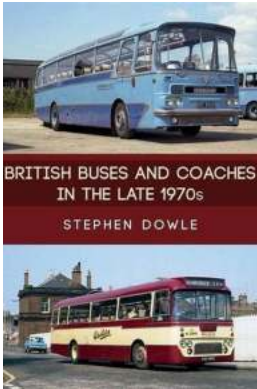
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The provincial bus operations of Britain underwent great upheavals following legislation enacted in 1969. An expanded state-owned sector had merged the Tilling and BET groups to form the National Bus Company. The great corporation fleets of the Midlands and North had been combined with their smaller municipal neighbors to form the Passenger Transport Executives. Elsewhere, municipal bus operations endured, ranging in size from Edinburgh Corporation to Bedwas & Machen Urban District Council, with its fleet of three vehicles. Further consolidation took place to bring transport arrangements into line with the new local government structure introduced in 1974. North of the border the Scottish Bus Group provided state-owned services, and Greater Glasgow had its PTE. London Transport retained, for the time being, its own arrangements and unique mode of operation. Less affected by these changes were the Independents, which were mostly small, family-owned businesses more heavily involved with tours and excursions than stage-carriage bus services, but often owning a variety of interesting second-hand vehicles for working school and factory contracts. In a selection of photographs taken between 1976 and 1980, illustrating all sectors of

the industry throughout Britain, the author examines an interesting transition period, when much still remained of the old days, but developments were afoot which, in the mid-1980s, were to bring further convulsions to road passenger transport.



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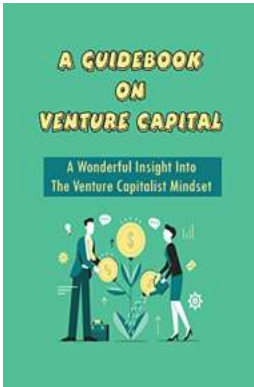
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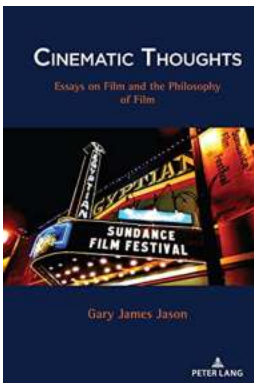
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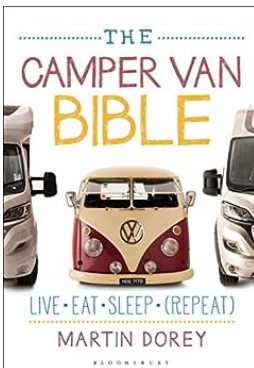
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