



The Age of Elegance: 1812-1822

Arthur Bryant

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Britain's first global war...as told by Britain's first great popular historian.

'The Years of Elegance: 1812-1822' is one of the master-works of British narrative history. In his own peerless style, the final volume of a three-part history of the Napoleonic Wars, Bryant tells the compelling story of the conflict with revolutionary France which began in 1793.

Thought of by many as the first world war, fought over four continents and two oceans this war shaped the world for the next century.

For 22 years, starting in 1793, Britain was at war with France

In 'The Age of Elegance' Arthur Bryant brings this epic story to a close.

From 1812 onwards, with Napoleon marching into Russia and Wellington's men knocking open the door into Spain behind him, Bryant details the brilliant campaigns which ultimately brought the dictator to his knees.

Bryant charts the road to Waterloo where he describes the battle with unforgettable clarity, and then tells the story of the peacemakers at Vienna.

In final part of the book the author surveys the England that had emerged after so many years of struggle. It was an England rich, powerful, and victorious, overflowing with energy and self-confidence.

He describes both the sources of her power, in agriculture, industry, and commerce, and the depths of injustices, un-redressed wrongs, and simmering discontents that had accumulated under the surface, unperceived by the architects of victory.

He describes how the revolution which the English had mastered in battle nearly overwhelmed them in peace, and closes with a glimpse of the spirit which was able to mitigate those wrongs and move on to the making of the nation's future.

'The most brilliant book that Mr Bryant has yet given us. It is indeed wonderfully written, it carries us forward breathlessly...He has an extraordinary gift for historical landscape, so that his scenes live intensely in the mind...The centre of this volume is the battle-piece of Waterloo: I do not remember any account of a battle to surpass it.' — A. L. Rowse in *Time and Tide*.

Arthur Bryant (1899-1985) was educated at Harrow and Queen's College, Oxford. He was in the British Expeditionary Force in the First World War, and was called to the bar at the Inner Temple. From 1923 to 1925 he was principal of the Cambridge School of Arts, Crafts, and Technology, and then became lecturer in History to the Oxford Delegacy for Extra-Mural Studies until 1936. In 1935 he became Watson Professor of American History in the University of London, and he was also President of the English Association from 1946 to 1949. Arthur Bryant wrote over forty books including 'The Years of Endurance' and 'Years of Victory', to which 'The Age of Elegance' is the third book in the series covering late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

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