

Iron Men

How One London Factory Powered the Industrial Revolution and Shaped the Modern World

David Waller, Foreword by Norman Foster

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The remarkable story of Henry Maudslay – the ambitious engineering innovator who made the Industrial Revolution possible

'With wit, assurance and dexterity, Iron Men captures the ingenuity, determination and defiance of a small group of Britons whose inventions made their country the epicentre of technology. The early nineteenth-century inventors, who created the automatic spinning mule, devised the micrometer, standardized the manufacturing of screws and bolts and concocted the steam engine, had an influence as widespread as that enjoyed today by companies in Silicon Valley and China. David Waller has composed an absorbing tale of man's ability to create a lot from a little.'—Sir Michael Moritz, Chairman, Sequoia Capital

'[David Waller] concentrates on London's role in the industrial revolution and machine tool inventor Henry Maudslay, one of its linchpins. ... He shows how Maudslay's factory in Lambeth, established in 1810, inspired and informed a generation of engineers and enabled the industrial revolution by standardising parts and creating reliable machines to make them.'—The Financial Times

'David Waller has done us a great favour in highlighting Maudslay's boundless creativity and energy and reveals him as the mentor and inspiration to a generation of talented engineers who changed the world.'—Lord Norman Foster

In the early nineteenth century, Henry Maudslay, an engineer from a humble background, opened a factory in Westminster Bridge Road, a stone's throw from the Thames. His workshop became in its day the equivalent of Google and Apple combined, attracting the country's best in engineering talent. Their story of innovation and ambition tells how precision engineering made the industrial revolution possible, helping Great Britain become the workshop of the world.

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David Waller is an author, business consultant and former Financial Times journalist specialising in business and the nineteenth century.

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