

## Zenon Vantini

### From Grand Tour to Package Holiday

by Pamela Sambrook

#### DESCRIPTION:

In this remarkable study, Pamela Sambrook rescues from obscurity the contribution of a former member of Napoleon's Imperial Guard to the development of specialist hotels and catering in the formative years of the railway network in England and France. In doing so, she interrogates what lies behind some of Zenon Vantini's very real achievements, legacies and disasters. She asks how far he was driven by his familial background in Elba and his involvement in the political turmoil of early-nineteenth-century France, and to what extent his whole life was known to those around him. Vantini's extraordinary life encapsulates the change between two very different worlds - the old imperial past and the new age of entrepreneurial risk-taking. Never shaking off his old political loyalties, he believed resolutely that the mobility afforded by railway travel would change Europe fundamentally. In the long view he was a component part in the very early years of an industry which revolutionised England and Europe more than did even his hero, Napoleon.

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Pamela Sambrook is well known within the field of country-house research for her work on restoring domestic offices and rescuing something of the lives of servants. She has now retired from consultancy to the National Trust, English Heritage and private owners and from teaching adult education. Having written many books on domestic service, here she strikes out together with her subject, Zenon Vantini, into fields new to her - Napoleonic studies and railway history. "

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