



# The Tower of London

*Stephen Porter*

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The Tower of London is an icon of England's history. William the Conqueror built the White Tower after his invasion and conquest in 1066, to dominate London and it has become infamous as a place of torture, execution and murder.

The deaths of royals attracted most attention; the murder of Princes in the Tower, the beheading of Henry VIII's wives, Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard, and Lady Jane Grey, Henry's great-niece and queen for just nine days. Few prisoners recorded their experiences, but John Gerard, a Catholic priest imprisoned during Elizabeth I's reign, wrote of being questioned in the torture-room, which contained 'every device and instrument of torture'. After being hung from manacles, his wrists were swollen and he could barely walk. Members of the aristocracy could not be tortured, and those incarcerated for a long time used their time to write. Sir Walter Raleigh wrote his vast History of the World in the Tower.

Control of the Tower was vital at times of crisis, during rebellions and civil wars. It has also been the country's principal arsenal, it housed the royal mint, the national archives, the crown jewels and wealthy Londoners' riches, and in the royal menagerie it contained one of the earliest zoos. Stephen Porter's landmark new history traces the evolution of the Tower and its changing role, the many personalities who lived or were imprisoned there, and the 'voices' of contemporaries during the Tower's long history, spanning almost 1000 years.

## REVIEWS

Following the popular poppies display, the timing of this comprehensive history of London's iconic tower is rather apt.

Britain Magazine's Jan-Feb 2015

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Playing with family within a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love The Tower of London, you may enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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