THE TOWER OF LONDON

Department of the Environment Official Guide

HMSO: 15p net

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT GUIDEBOOK

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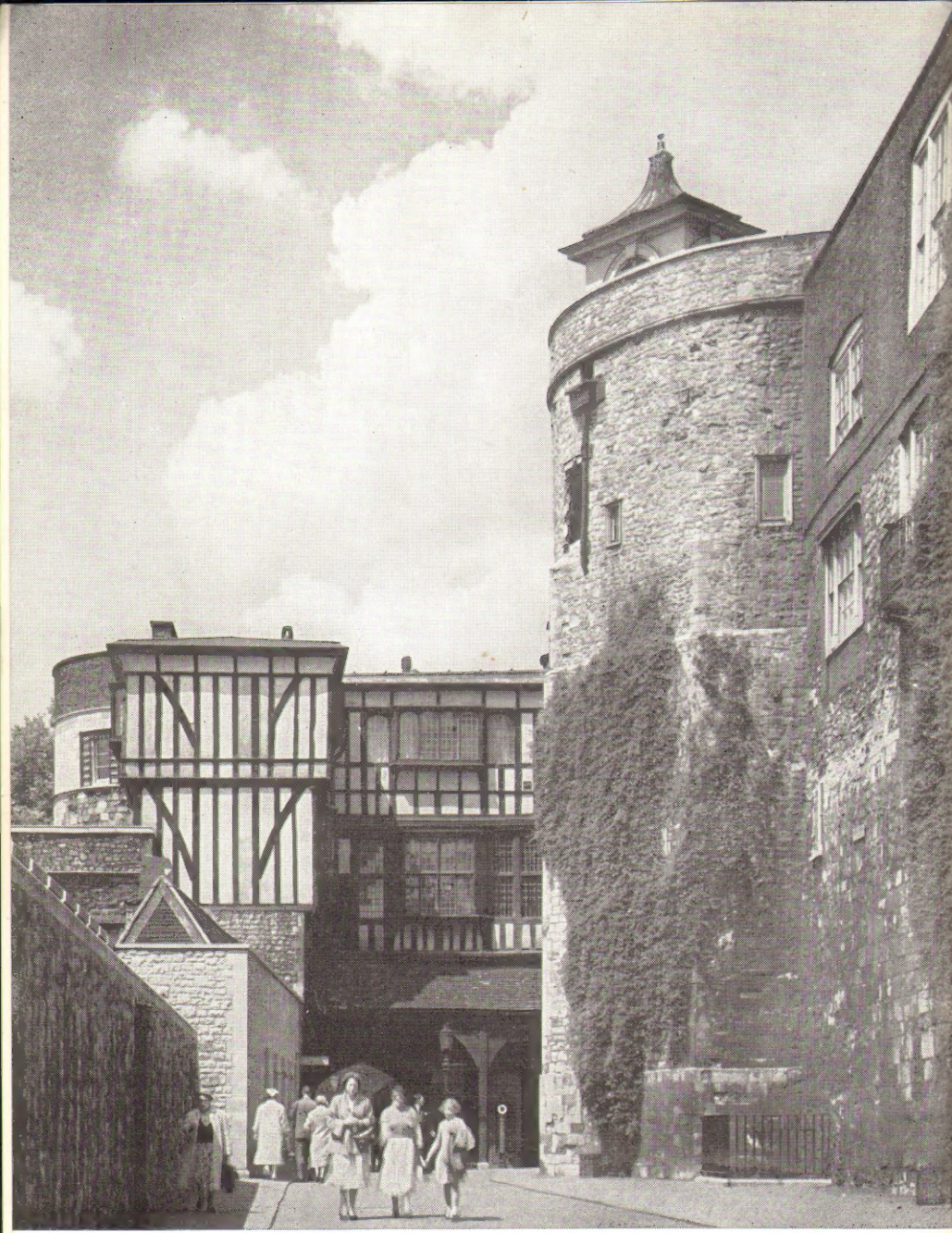
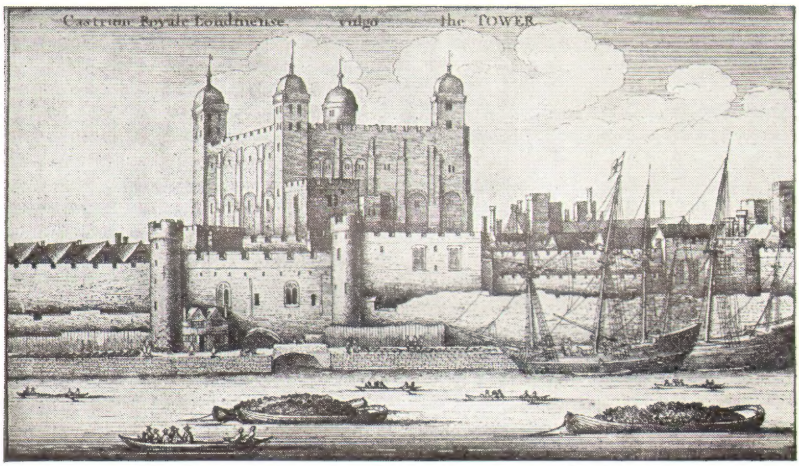
LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1967 : Reprinted 1971



The Bell Tower (right) with the Byward Tower in the background

The Tower of London



The Tower of London from an engraving by Hollar

THE TOWER OF LONDON was first built by William the Conqueror, for the purpose of protecting and controlling the city. As first planned, it lay within the Roman city walls, but its enlargement in the thirteenth century carried its boundaries eastwards beyond the walls. Nowadays it is wholly within the borough of Tower Hamlets. Including the moat, it covers an area of 18 acres.

Of the present buildings only the White Tower is of the Norman period; but architecture of almost all the styles which have flourished in England may be found within the walls. The Tower has in the past been a fortress, a palace and a prison, and has housed the Royal Mint, the Public Records and (for a short time) the Royal Observatory. It was for centuries the arsenal for small arms and, being one of the strongest fortresses in the land, the Tower has always guarded the Crown Jewels. From the thirteenth century until 1834 it also housed the Royal Menagerie, the predecessor of the London Zoo.

The oldest and most important building is the Great Tower or Keep, called the White Tower. The Inner Ward is defended by a wall containing thirteen towers, the only surviving original entrance to it being that on the south side under the Bloody Tower. The Outer Ward is defended by a second wall, flanked by six towers on the river face, and by two semicircular

The Tower of London from the river

bastions at the north-west and north-east. A Ditch or Moat, now dry, encircles the whole; it is crossed at the south-western angle by a stone bridge, formerly the drawbridge, leading to the Byward Tower from the Middle Tower, where there was another drawbridge. In front of this was an outwork called the Lion Tower, also surrounded by a moat, which was crossed by a stone causeway, exposed to view in 1936–37. This causeway included a third drawbridge.

The Tower was occupied as a palace by all our Kings and Queens down to James I. It was the custom for each monarch to lodge in the Tower before his coronation, and to ride in procession to Westminster through the city. The Palace buildings stood between the White Tower and the Inner Wall eastward of the Bloody Tower.

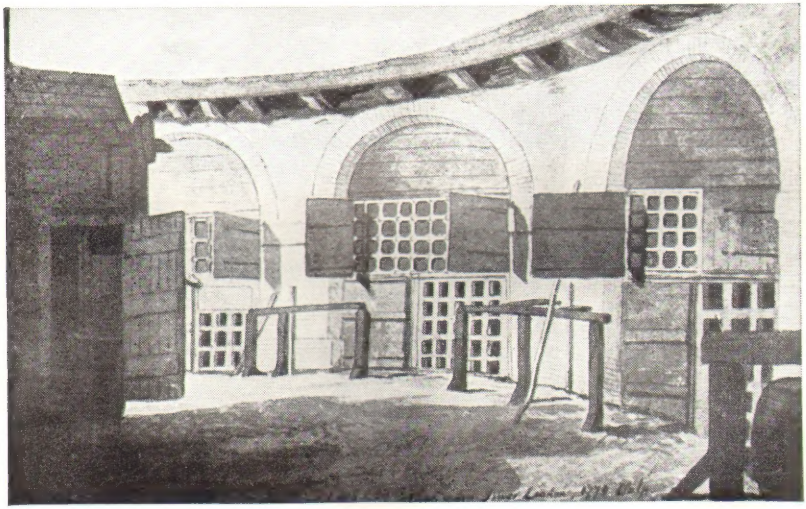
Throughout its history the Tower has also been used as the principal place of confinement for State prisoners, from Ralf Flambard in the early twelfth century to Roger Casement (April-May, 1916) and Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess (May, 1941), in the twentieth, as well as other historic personages named in later paragraphs of this guide.

Tower Hill

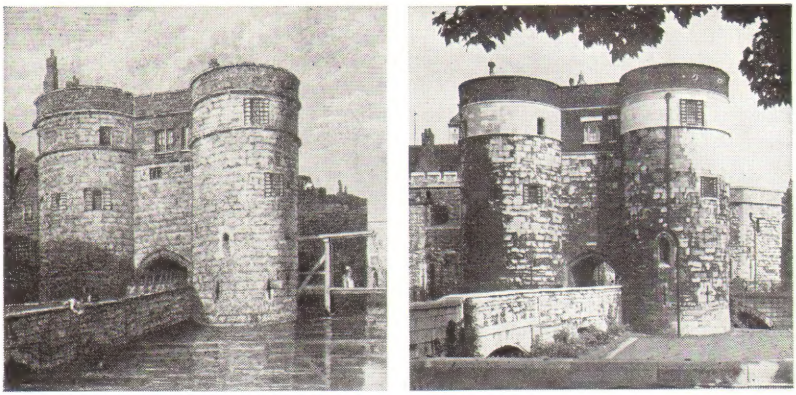
The best general view of the Tower is obtained from the gardens to the east of All Hallows Church or from the top of Tower Hill. (To reach the

Tower from the underground railway station, however, the visitor should make use of the pedestrian crossing.) In the railed space of Trinity Square, at the top of Tower Hill, the first permanent scaffold on Tower Hill was set up in the reign of Edward IV in 1465, but the first execution recorded here was that of Sir Simon Burley in 1388. Here also were beheaded, among others, Dudley, the minister of Henry VII (1510), his son the Duke of Northumberland (1553), his grandson Lord Guildford Dudley (1554), Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex (1540), More and Fisher (1535), Surrey (1547) and his son Norfolk (1572), Strafford (1641) and Archbishop Laud (1645), and the Scottish Lords in 1716, 1746, and 1747, the last being Simon, Lord Lovat.

Passing down the east side of the Tower, one sees the Tower Moat. It was drained in 1843, and part of it is now used as a training and recreation ground. On January 7th, 1928, at 1.30 a.m., a tidal wave swept over the wharf, destroying portions of the retaining walls of the Moat, filling it completely and flooding the Byward Tower to a depth of four feet. As we approach the entrance, we have a good view of the fortifications. On the left is Legge's Mount. To the right is the entrance gateway. The highest building behind is the White Tower, easily distinguished by its four turrets. In front of it are the Devereux, Beauchamp, and Bell Towers, the residences of the Governor and of the Yeoman Gaoler being in the



The Royal Menagerie in the Lion Tower in 1779



The Byward Tower in the days when the moat contained water and (right) today

gabled and red-tiled houses between the last two. From one of these windows Lady Jane Grey saw her husband's headless body brought in from Tower Hill.

Queen Elizabeth I, before her accession, was imprisoned in the Tower by her sister Mary, who feared her influence with the Protestants. She is said to have used this part of the walls for exercise, and to this day the ramparts between the Beauchamp Tower and the Bell Tower are known as Elizabeth's Walk.

The Entrance

The modern entrance to the Tower, completed in 1966, passes over the stone causeway which was the only way into the Tower by land in the Middle Ages. This causeway was built by Edward I (1278) and crossed the Outer Moat to the Lion Tower. It had a drawbridge at its outer end, where stood the Lion Gate, and the pit of this drawbridge and the curved slots for its counterweights should be noticed. The Outer Moat was filled up in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and the causeway was buried. It was rediscovered in 1936, and is now exposed to view.

The Lion Tower

The Lion Tower was a wide semicircle, which stood where the ticket office and refreshment room are now. Part of the line of curved outer wall is marked in the roadway. From the thirteenth century to 1834 the Royal Menagerie was lodged within and near it. Another short causeway, still buried on its south side, leads to

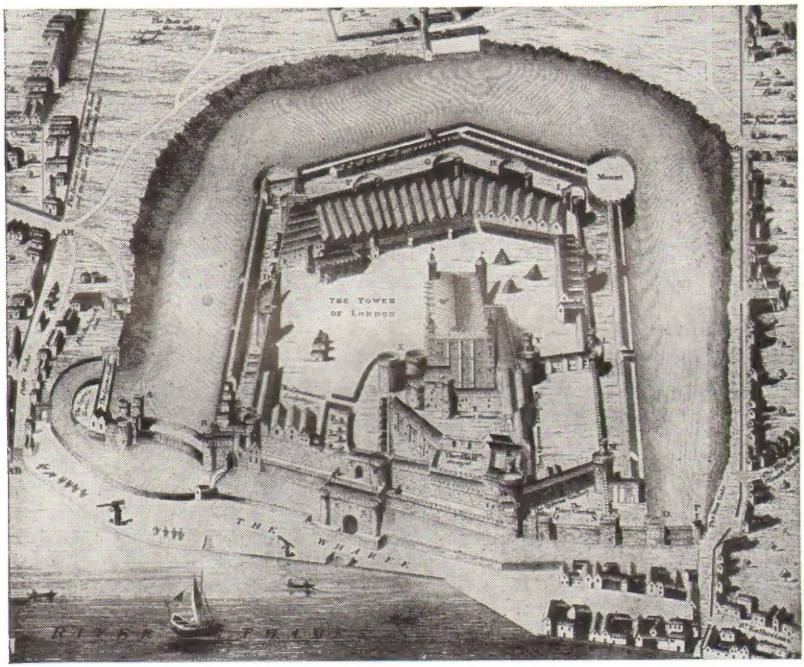
The Middle Tower

This also was originally built by Edward I, but it was largely rebuilt in

the early eighteenth century. In front of it was the second drawbridge, and the arch under the north side of the causeway let water from the Inner Moat into the drawbridge pit, which exists under the road. Beyond the Middle Tower is the Inner Moat, crossed by another causeway where there was a third drawbridge.

The Byward Tower

This gatehouse of the Outer Ward is the main entrance through the outer circuit of walls. It was built at the end of the thirteenth century, with additions of the time of Richard II. The timber superstructure on the inside was rebuilt in the early sixteenth century. The portcullis with the machinery for raising and lowering it can be seen on the first floor. On either side of the archway are guardrooms with vaulted stone roofs and hooded fireplaces. Part of a fourteenth-century wall-painting, which includes the figures of St John the Baptist and St Michael depicted against a background decorated with the leopards of England and fleurs-de-lis of France, has been uncovered in the principal room over the gate passage.



The Tower of London from an engraving based on a survey of 1597

Traitors' Gate beneath St Thomas's Tower

The Bell Tower

This was planned probably in the reign of Richard I, though its earliest details point to a date early in the thirteenth century. Here Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, St Thomas More, the Princess Elizabeth, and James, Duke of Monmouth, were confined. The Curtain Wall east of this tower is pierced by the windows of the Lieutenant's Lodgings, now called the Queen's House, and one of these windows lights the Council Chamber, where Guy Fawkes and his fellow conspirators were examined by the Council in 1605 before their public trial at Westminster.

The Traitors' Gate

On the right is now St Thomas's Tower, with the Traitors' Gate beneath: the wide span of the arch should be noticed. This gate, when the Thames was more of a highway than it is at present, was often used as an entrance to the Tower. In later times it was found convenient as a landing-place for prisoners who had been tried at Westminster. Here successively Edward, Duke of Buckingham (1521), St Thomas More, Queen Anne Boleyn (1536), Cromwell, Earl of Essex, Queen Katharine Howard (1542), Seymour, Duke of Somerset (1551), Lady Jane Grey (1533), the Princess Elizabeth, Devereaux, Earl of Essex (1601), and James, Duke of Monmouth (1685), passed under the arch on their way to prison or the scaffold. St Thomas's Tower was built by Edward I, and contains a small chapel or oratory dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury.

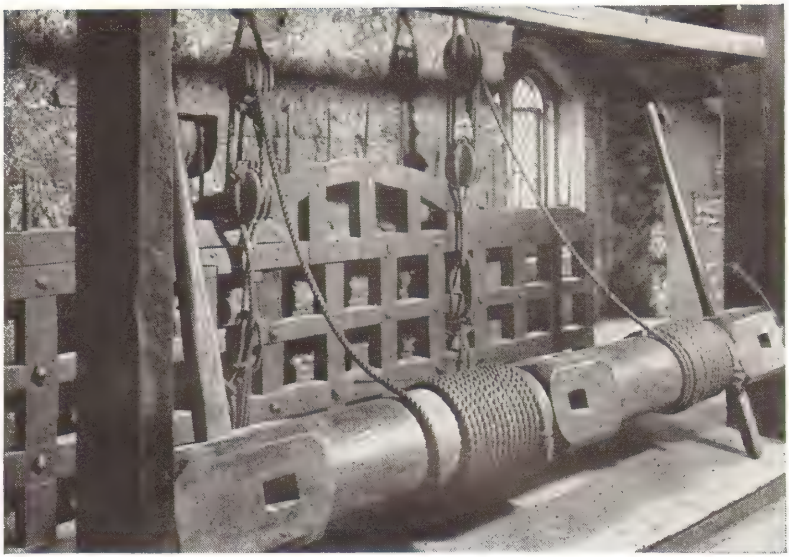
Portion of a mural painting of the fourteenth century discovered in the Byward Tower in 1953

The Bloody Tower

The gateway was built by Henry III and the tower was added over it in the reign of Richard II. It was called by its present name as early as 1597, being believed to be the scene of the murder of Edward V and his brother, the Duke of York. It was orginally known as the Garden Tower, as it gives upon that part of the open space which was formerly the Constable's garden. Here Sir Walter Raleigh, whose portrait hangs over the fireplace, was allowed to walk at one time during the twelve years' imprisonment that followed the abortive attempt, at the end of 1603, to place James I's crown on the head of Lady Arabella Stuart. Most of that time Raleigh was detained in the Bloody Tower. His rooms, we are told, were not uncomfortably furnished, his wife and son could visit him, and he had two servants.

In 1616 the King released Raleigh for a fresh expedition to the West Indies; but although he was no doubt hoping for the lion's share of the spoils, James also warned the Spaniards. Continual disaster overtook the expedition, and in August, 1618, Raleigh was once again lodged in the Tower. This time, the King meant to be rid of him. And, on the ground that Raleigh's former sentence still held good, he was beheaded on October 29th in Old Palace Yard, Westminster.

Other prominent occupants of this tower were Laud, Judge Jeffreys, and possibly Monmouth.



Portcullis mechanism in the Bloody Tower

Immediately joining this tower on the east is

The Wakefield Tower

The work now to be seen points to its having been built by Henry III. The Great Hall, memorable as the scene of Anne Boleyn's trial, adjoined it, but was pulled down during the Commonwealth. In 1360 the records of the kingdom, which had previously been kept in the White Tower, were lodged here, and this is called in ancient surveys sometimes the Record Tower, sometimes the Hall Tower. The present name is probably derived from William de Wakefield, King's Clerk, appointed to hold custody of the Exchanges in the Tower in 1344. The Tower has two floors; the ground floor acted as a guard room to the thirteenth-century postern which once led to the Royal Apartments. The remains of this small water-gate, which lay immediately against the east side of the Wakefield Tower and a part of Henry III's curtain running eastwards, were revealed in 1957. The upper floor of the Wakefield Tower contains a single vaulted chamber of some magnificence. Under Edward I, a bridge gave access from St Thomas's Tower to the Palace via the doorway in the south side of this chamber. The present bridge is a nineteenth-century reconstruction, but the original doorways at either end survive.

The Royal Mint within the Tower in the eighteenth century

The Wall of the Inmost Ward

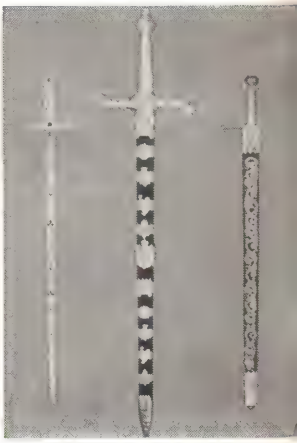
Running north from the Wakefield Tower is a length of wall built by Henry III. This formed part of the western side of the Inmost Ward, and is pierced with loopholes, each loophole being in an arched recess on the inner or eastern face of the wall. At its north end it terminated level with the White Tower, and at this point was situated the Coldharbour Tower, which was the main gateway into the Inmost Ward, and is now destroyed. The foundations of the rounded fronts of its two towers have recently been exposed. This length of wall and the foundations of the gateway-towers were for long embedded in a modern building known as the Main Guard. This was destroyed by enemy bombs on December 29th, 1940, and the medieval wall has been carefully cleared of the ruins.

The Crown Jewels

Most of the magnificent regalia displayed date from the seventeenth century. Nearly all the regalia of six centuries of the English monarchy were sold or melted down by Oliver Cromwell. At the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 as much as possible was recovered and new regalia were made resembling the old.

The Sovereign's Orb

St Edward's Crown



The Swords of State

Crowns. The earliest Sovereign's Crown now extant is the lineal successor of King Edward the Confessor's crown (hence its name St Edward's Crown), and was made for the coronation of Charles II.

The earliest Queen's Crown was made for Mary of Modena, consort of James II.

The Imperial State Crown with two arches was made for the coronation of Queen Victoria in 1838. In it is set one ancient jewel, the balas ruby said to have been given to the Black Prince by Pedro the Cruel after the battle of Navarette, 1367, and later worn by Henry V in the coronet surrounding his helmet at the battle of Agincourt, 1415. The crown later had added to it the second largest of 'The Stars of Africa', cut from the Cullinan diamond, and altogether contains over 3,000 precious stones, mainly diamonds and pearls.

Set in the crown made in 1937 for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is the famous Indian diamond known as the Koh-i-noor.

Orbs. The larger Orb was made for Charles II, the smaller for Mary II, consort of William III.

Sceptres. St. Edward's Staff, of gold, 4 ft 7 in. [1·4 m] long, is surmounted by an orb. The original was supposed to contain a fragment of the True Cross.

The Ampulla and Spoon

The Imperial State Crown

The Exeter Salt

The Royal Sceptre, surmounted by a cross, contains the largest of 'The Stars of Africa', cut from the Cullinan diamond. This is the biggest cut diamond in the world, weighing 530 carats.

The Sceptre with the dove is delivered into the Sovereign's left hand at the coronation.

The Queen's Sceptre with the cross was made for Mary of Modena.

The Queen's Sceptre with the dove was made for Mary II.

The Queen's ivory Rod, mounted in gold and enamelled, was also made for Mary of Modena.

Other Regalia. The pair of gold and enamelled Bracelets were made for Charles II, but were never used. The gold Armills which have replaced them were used at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Gold Spurs of St George were formerly buckled on as the emblems of chivalry. They are now touched by the Sovereign and placed on the Altar.

The Romanesque Anointing-spoon is one of the two ancient pieces which survive. It dates from the end of the twelfth century and was perhaps made for the coronation of John (1199–1216). The bowl of the spoon was restored for Charles II.

The ampulla, the vessel in the form of an eagle, which contains the oil for the anointing, is the other ancient piece, though not so old as the spoon. It dates in all probability from the time of Henry IV (1399–1413), but was restored for Charles II.

Plate. Besides the regalia proper, much royal plate is displayed, both

Yeoman Warders
in Ceremonial Dress

ecclesiastical and secular. Some pieces have been used at coronations and other State occasions in the past; others are still so used. One fine piece of plate, 'Queen Elizabeth's Salt' dates from 1572–73: the remainder is practically all of the time of Charles II or William and Mary II.

The Swords of State include the *Curtana* (without a point) denoting Mercy and the State Sword used at the opening of Parliament. Maces and trumpets are also displayed, some of them used at earlier coronations, and in other cases are the insignia of the Orders of Knighthood, with their collars, stars and badges, and the highest of all decorations for valour, the Victoria Cross and the George Cross.

The Earliest Fortress

The Conqueror, before he entered London, ordered the construction of an advanced command post and, after his coronation at Christmas 1066, withdrew to Barking while the works were completed. The defended area was quite small, the south and east sides being formed by the river and the Roman city wall (repaired by King Alfred in 885), and the north and west sides by a newly dug ditch and rampart marked by the wall of the Inmost Ward. This wall was built within the early garrison-fort, the supervision of the work being entrusted to Gundulf, a monk of Bec in

The Bloody Tower (left) and the Wakefield Tower

Normandy who later became Bishop of Rochester. In 1097, under William Rufus, the works were still going on. A great storm in 1091 damaged the outworks. Ralf Flambard, Bishop of Durham, who was imprisoned in the Keep by Henry I, contrived to escape in 1101. During the wars between Stephen and Matilda, the Earl of Essex was Constable of the Tower, and even obtained a grant of the City of London. When he fell into Stephen's hands, the Tower formed the ransom, and the citizens regained their ancient Liberty. When Richard I was absent on the Crusade, his regent, Longchamp, resided in the Tower, of which he greatly enlarged the precincts by trespasses on the land of the City and of St Katherine's Hospital. He surrendered the Tower to the citizens, led by Prince John, in 1191.

The whole Tower was held in pledge for the completion of Magna Carta in 1215 and 1216. At this time the Roman city wall and the river still formed the east and south sides of the castle, but a new ditch was dug and curtain wall built, extending to the defended area to the west. The new defences ran from the Roman city wall just north of the White Tower, across what is now the Parade Ground to the site of the later Beauchamp Tower. From there they turned southward to the river. The Bell Tower and the curtain wall between it and the Bloody Tower are all that survive of the defences of this time.

The White Tower or Keep

The White Tower, commenced by the Conqueror and completed by William Rufus, is the oldest visible part of the fortress and is one of the earliest and largest keeps in Western Europe. In plan it is somewhat irregular for although it looks so square from the river its four sides are all of different lengths, and three of its corners are not right-angles. The west side is 107 ft [32·6 m] from north to south. The south side measures 118 ft [35·9 m]. It has four turrets at the corners, three of them square, the fourth, that on the north-east, being circular. From floor to battlements it is 90 ft [27·4 m] in height. The original entrance was on the south side, on the first floor, being reached, as usual in Norman castles, by an external staircase which has entirely disappeared. The interior is of the plainest and sternest character. Every consideration is subservient to that of obtaining the greatest strength and security. The outer walls vary in thickness from 15 ft [4·6 m] in the lower to 11 ft [3·3 m] in the upper storey. The whole building is crossed from north to south by one wall, which rises from base to summit and divides it into a larger western and a smaller eastern portion. The eastern part is further subdivided by a wall which cuts off the Chapel of St John, its Crypt, and its Sub-crypt, the floors between which are of stone. There is a wooden floor between each of the storeys of the other part.

The Tower and Tower Bridge from the Port of London Authority Building

View from Tower Bridge

The White Tower, or Keep

During the Middle Ages the Keep was truly the White Tower; thus in 1241 Henry III had the royal apartments in the Keep whitewashed, as well as the whole exterior. In addition he had the Chapel of St John decorated with painting and stained glass.

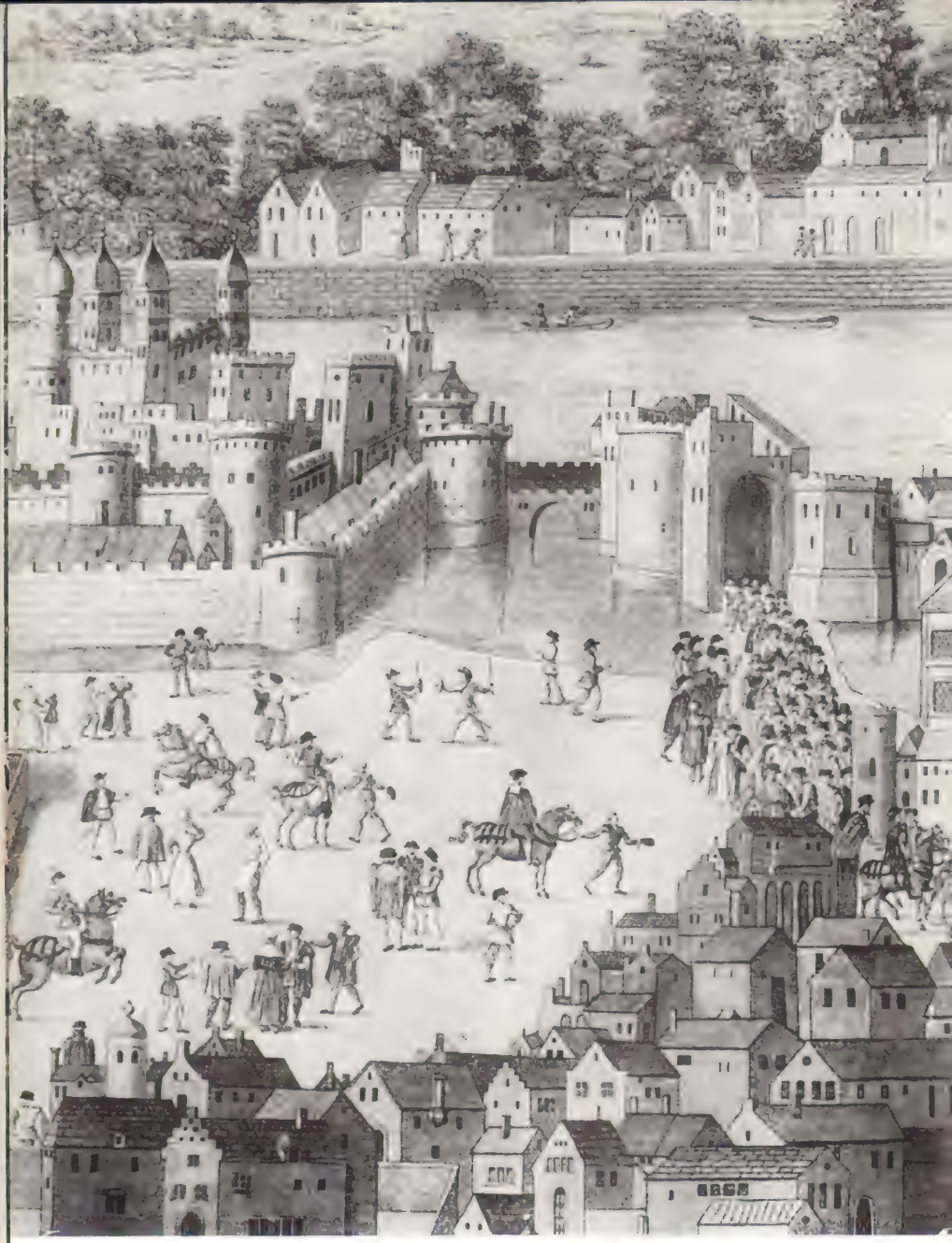
During the wars with France, David, King of Scots, John, King of France, Charles of Blois, and John de Vienne, governor of Calais, and his twelve brave burgesses and many other illustrious prisoners were lodged here. In the Tower Richard II signed his abdication in 1399. The Duke of Orléans, taken at Agincourt, was lodged by Henry V in the White Tower. From that time the Beauchamp and other Towers were more used as prisons, but probably some of the Kentish rebels, taken with Wyatt in 1554, slept in the recesses of the Sub-crypt of the Chapel. In 1663 and later years down to 1709, structural repairs were carried out under the superintendence of Sir Christopher Wren, who replaced nearly all the Norman window openings with others of a classical character.

Near a staircase which has now disappeared, on the south side, some children's bones were found in the reign of Charles II. They were identified, somewhat conjecturally, with the remains of Edward V and his brother who disappeared so mysteriously at the accession of Richard III.

The Armouries: In its dual role as a palace stronghold for the sovereign and as a fortress to defend and, on occasion, to overawe the City, the Tower of London has always contained arms and armour. Surviving inventories dating from the fourteenth century show that it housed arms and armour for the personal use of the king and for the service of his army and navy. It thus acted both as part of the Royal Wardrobe and as an arsenal. During the sixteenth century it became the showplace of the nation, and foreign visitors of the time have left us descriptions of its treasures, trophies and vast stores of armaments.

The armour of our kings and princes was formerly distributed among the royal palaces, but after the Restoration in 1660, when armour had fallen into disuse, Charles II had it concentrated at the Tower and at Windsor Castle, and so, with only a few exchanges, it has remained. At the Tower was set up the famous historical line of kings, a feature of the Armouries which continued well into the nineteenth century despite many anachronisms.

At the end of the seventeenth century the Grand Storehouse was built on the site of the present Waterloo Barracks in order to display in proper fashion the trophies of British victories on land and sea. Even the stands of small arms were laid out in decorative patterns. The character of the Armouries was thus changed and it became an historical collection rather



The Coronation Procession of Edward VI leaving the Tower in 1547

than exclusively an armament store. This aspect has been further accentuated in the past two centuries by the acquisition by gift and purchase of fine examples of the armourers' craft. Today the Armouries, the oldest museum in the country, is the national museum of arms and armour.

But it is the royal armours which remain conspicuous and give the Armouries a special character, providing a direct link with the history of England. Unfortunately, none survives which can be associated with any royal person before Henry VIII, who was king from 1509–47. He took a great personal interest in arms and armour, and effectively the present collection dates from his reign and reflects his personality, for no less than four of his own armours are displayed in the White Tower. Before directing the visitor to these, a brief outline of the history of armour may be useful.

The first armed men within the Tower nine hundred years ago wore armour mostly of mail. Their shirts and leggings were constructed of small interlinked metal rings; their helmets were of plate, and on the left arm they carried a shield. Their weapons were lance and sword and, on occasion, mace or axe. Thus were armed William the Conqueror at Hastings and Richard I and his Crusaders in Palestine. But mail, for all its flexibility, had certain disadvantages; it was heavy and dragged on the body and it did not prevent heavy bruising and broken bones. The armourers therefore began to reinforce it with pieces of plate. This process proceeded rapidly in the fourteenth century, and the men-at-arms at Crécy (1346) and Poitiers (1356) wore such a mixture of plate and mail armour. The full harness of plate from head to foot ('white armour' is the self-evident term for it) was finally evolved early in the fifteenth century, about the time of Agincourt (1415). The advantages of plate armour lay in its comparative ease in wear and in the strength of the smooth rounded surfaces which either resisted a blow or deflected it. The best plate armour was made in North Italy, in Milan, and South Germany, and many Englishmen obtained their armours from those centres.

The introduction of gunpowder as a propellant in the fourteenth century and the development of firearms had at first comparatively little effect upon armour; guns and great bombards were used mainly for offence and defence in sieges of fortified places. But in the sixteenth century the musket effectively ousted the bow from the battlefield. Armour then had to resist the bullet. It could be made thick enough to do this, but inevitably this greatly increased its weight, and in the better organised armies of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when freer tactical manoeuvring became essential, the heavily armoured horseman found himself at a disadvantage. This led to the gradual abandonment of body armour. However, the tournament remained a popular knightly exercise up to the

Henry VIII, whose personal armours are displayed in the White Tower

Armour of Henry VIII made at Greenwich in 1540

Tonlet (skirted) armour of Henry VIII, Milanese, c. 1510

beginning of the seventeenth century and the tilt armours necessary for the different contests and courses run on such occasions kept the armourers busy. Indeed, some of the finest craftsmen exercised their skills during this period.

When the English Civil War broke out in 1642 the day of defensive armour was almost over. For a time the pikeman continued to wear half-armour, and the cavalryman wore a helmet and cuirass (front and back plates) over a buff coat, on occasion leaving off even the cuirass. Thereafter for nearly two centuries the soldier depended upon his weapons of offence, and regiments of the standing army were clothed in distinctive uniforms of cloth.

Armour of Henry VIII for horse and man

Rare 'Gothic' armour of the late fifteenth century

Comparatively little armour older than the fifteenth century has survived. Mail was particularly liable to deterioration and was often cut up for other uses. Plate was repeatedly refashioned and eventually discarded or left to rust. But enriched armour of the sixteenth century is preserved in greater quantity because of its intrinsic merits or its personal associations. Here at the Tower are rich armours of Henry VIII and many Elizabethan courtiers, and of the Stuart kings and princes of the seventeenth century. The armour of the common soldier, undecorated and less finely finished, had even less chance of survival; it is as a rule found only in arsenals. At the Tower it is represented by a few jacks (metal-reinforced textile jackets) and troopers' and pikemen's armours of the seventeenth century.

The weapons of offence can be grouped in different categories, which may be summarised thus: (1) *armes blanches:* swords and daggers; (*f*) *bludgeoning arms:* clubs, maces and flails; (3) *staff or pole arms:* lances, spears, pikes and axes, bills, halberds and partisans, etc.; (4) *projectile weapons:* longbows, crossbows, javelins, slings and firearms. The firearms are of immense variety, ranging in size from great cannon, down to the smallest of pistols. It is worthy of remark that the three principles of the modern rifle and pistol, namely, breech-loading, rifling and the revolving chamber, were understood at an early date and specimens of these actions can be seen in the Tower dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE ARMOURIES

The displays in the White Tower are at present being converted from a typological to a chronological arrangement. Groups of armour and weapons of more or less the same period are replacing rows of pieces all similar in type placed side by side for comparative purposes. This process necessarily causes some dislocation, but two-thirds of the rearrangement is now completed.

On entering the White Tower from the double external staircase on the north side the visitor arrives on the floor which was used as a store for service arms between 1841 and 1916 and was thus known as the 'Gun Floor'. The first room is

the **Tournament Room** (former Record Room): Here are assembled armours and parts of armours specially designed for use in the lists, for the different courses which could be run on horseback and for the different kinds of foot combat. Though the tournament was a martial sport, it could be dangerous for participants inappropriately armed. Most noticeable

are the great fifteenth-century tilting saddle in which the contestant stood in his stirrups and the tilt armour of the same period for a German form of joust with sharp lances, known as the *Rennen*.
The two other rooms on this floor,

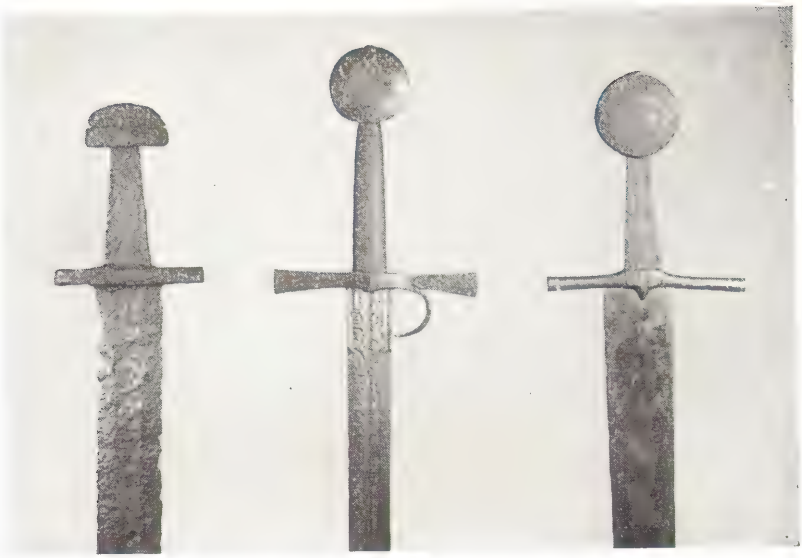
the **Crypt of the Chapel of St John** and the **Sporting Room** (former Small Arms Room), are in course of rearrangement. From the latter room the visitor ascends a spiral staircase to the second floor and enters

the **Chapel of St John:** This Chapel rises through two floors of the White Tower and is of the greatest interest because of its survival from an early date, about 1080, unaltered. It is 55½ ft [16·9 m] long and 31 ft [9·4 m] wide and has a sanctuary and a nave structurally undivided and opening through Romanesque archways to a continuous ambulatory and flanking aisles. The great cylindrical columns of the arcading have simply-carved capitals and carry plain round archways. Above the latter are plain archways to a continuous gallery, known as a tribune, lit by a number of windows in the back wall. The only old fittings in the Chapel are the panels of stained glass in the lower windows which came from Horace Walpole's collection at Strawberry Hill. A notice on the north wall lists some of the historic happenings in this Chapel. Leaving the Chapel by the north doorway the visitor enters

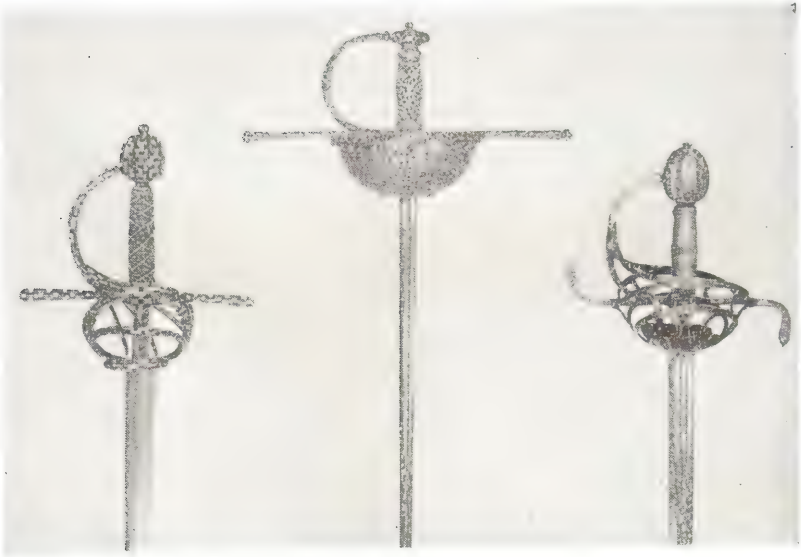
the **Medieval Gallery** (former Sword Room): As the name explains, the room is devoted to arms and armour dating from shortly before the Norman Conquest of England to the late fifteenth century. The visitor should see in particular the splendid bascinet (helmet) of about 1400 given by Sir Archibald Lyle and the extremely rare German Gothic horse-armour of about 1480. Here, too, are displayed a series of swords illustrating the development of this knightly weapon in the Middle Ages. At first it usually had a straight double-edged blade; the quillons consisted of a simple cross-bar to protect the hand, and balance was given by a pommel which developed from brazil-nut form to a circular disc.

The room contains one of the original fireplaces of the White Tower. The flue is carried up a short way within the wall and ends in narrow external apertures for the escape of smoke on either side of a buttress on the east face of the Tower. On this floor, too, and the one below, are small latrines (garderobes) contrived in the thickness of the walls, some of them retaining their original arched vents in the outer wall-face.

The next room is in course of rearrangement to show sixteenth-century pieces. It was for many years known as the 'Banqueting Room'. From its north-west corner a spiral staircase leads up to the top floor and



Medieval swords of the tenth to the fifteenth centuries



Rapiers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries

The Royal Armour Gallery in the White Tower, showing armour of King Henry VIII and the restored ceiling timbers. The massive cross wall on the left is part of the original structure

the **Greenwich Room** (former Horse Armoury and earlier the Council Chamber): The display in this room bears the strong impress of that most forceful and colourful of our kings, Henry VIII. He it was who founded the Royal armour workshops at Greenwich, which continued to produce fine armours until towards the middle of the seventeenth century. Most of the armours in this room are the products of that establishment, beginning with the armours of Henry himself; hence the name 'Greenwich Room'. Notice particularly the armour made for Henry about 1515 for foot combat, which entirely encased his body in steel, and his armour garniture made in 1540. The latter numbered many exchangeable pieces, enabling it to be put together in different ways for different contests. The great equestrian figure in the middle of the room comprises the armour for Henry and his horse *en suite*, made probably by Italians working in England. It bears the initials H and K, for Henry and his first wife, Katherine of Aragon (queen 1509–33). The whole of the engraved surface was formerly silvered and partly gilded. In a case in the north-west corner is a grotesque helmet with ram's horns which is the only piece surviving of a complete armour given to Henry by his contemporary, the Emperor Maximilian I.

Here too, are the Greenwich armours of such famous Elizabethan courtiers as Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and William Somerset, 3rd Earl of Worcester. Early examples of firearm mechanisms occur in the remarkable early sixteenth-century gun-shields and Henry's own gun, all of which are breech-loaders. From the Greenwich Room access is gained to

the **Seventeenth-Century Room** (former Tudor Room): Here again the name explains the period of the contents on display. Most conspicuous in the central case are the armours of the Stuart kings and princes. The gilded

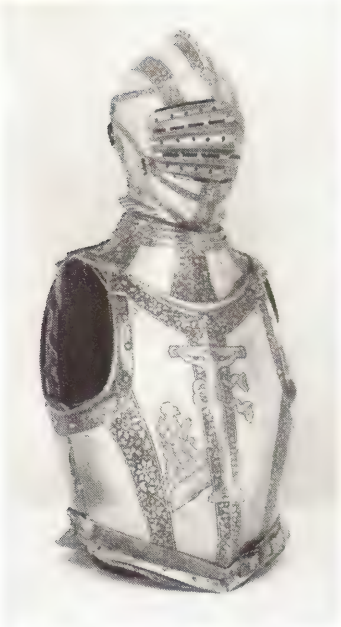
Grotesque helmet presented by the Emperor Maximilian I to King Henry VIII

cuirassier armour was for Charles I and is said to have been presented to him by the City of London. At first sight it appears to support the popular belief that men of the armour-wearing generations were smaller than we are today. This is a misconception: most of the surviving armours can be worn by modern man. Charles, in fact, was small and his armour indicates that he was only 5 ft 2 in. [1·6 m] tall. Flanking his armour are the beautiful armours for the young princes, and behind stands the latest armour for a king surviving in the Tower, the harquebus armour of James II, in which the face guard is fretted to represent the royal arms. In contrast with this royal group may be noticed the buff coat of Colonel Francis Hacker, who supervised the execution of Charles I. On the walls hang a number of pictures, mostly portraits, which complement the displays by showing how armour was worn.

The visitor leaves the Seventeenth-Century Room by the spiral stair in the north-east corner and descends to the basement, popularly called the 'dungeons'. It was vaulted in brick in 1730 and is divided into three rooms, all of which are now devoted to the display of ordnance and of armour and weapons of the workaday kind. They thus recreate something of the original arsenal-storehouse aspect of the Tower. In the basement the first room entered is

Close helmet of William Somerset, 3rd Earl of Worcester, made in the Royal Workshops at Greenwich c. 1570-80

Close helmet of 'Lion' armour c. 1550



Armour with finely etched decoration, South German, c. 1550

Visored bascinet with mail aventail, Milanese, c. 1390

the **Mortar Room:** Here are shown many of the bronze mortars which formerly stood in the Gun Park outside the White Tower. In the middle is the huge mortar used at the siege of Namur in 1695 which is popularly supposed to have been fired so repeatedly that the touch-hole (vent) became fused with the heat. The early timber carriage for it was burnt in 1841 in the great fire in the Grand Storehouse, leaving only the iron framework; its replacement was so decayed that it, too, had to be totally renewed in 1970, again within the original framework. Behind it is a ship's gun brought up from the wreck of the *Royal George*, sunk by accident in 1782 with the loss of Admiral Kempenfeldt and the whole crew of one hundred men. High up on the south wall is a stone carving of the Lion of St Mark brought from Corfu in 1809. Round the walls are service-issue muskets, pistols and swords. At the south end stands the extraordinary mortar with nine bores which was used for fireworks at the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748.

At the south end of the Mortar Room is a passage through the wall which is popularly believed to have been the notorious cell known as 'Little Ease'. It leads to the barrel-vaulted sub-crypt of the Chapel of St John. Herein are assembled some of the finer small bronze cannon. Conspicuous among them is the elaborately decorated Flemish gun of 1535, which is a *tour-de-force* of bronze casting. The carved and gilded wooden Lion of St Mark standing in the apse and the large cannon in front of it with the same insignia are further trophies from Corfu acquired in 1809.

Armour of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, made at Greenwich, c. 1585

German tilt-armour c. 1590 with lance

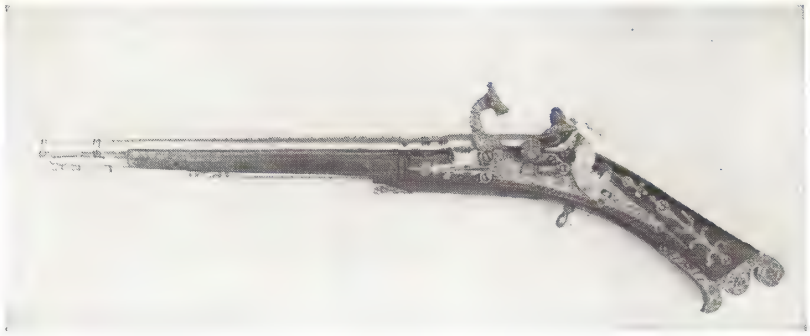
An opening cut through the west wall of the sub-crypt in the eighteenth century, when the basement was used as a powder store, leads to the large and impressive

Cannon Room: Conspicuous on the south wall is a large carved and coloured royal arms of Charles II. Elsewhere the walls are hung with rows of helmets, breastplates, backplates, lances, halberds etc. as if for issue to the soldiery. In the bays and down the centre of the room is ranged the

Armour of the Earl of Worcester, made at Greenwich, c. 1570–80

Armour of a Stuart prince, probably Charles II when Prince of Wales, aged about fourteen years. English or French c. 1640

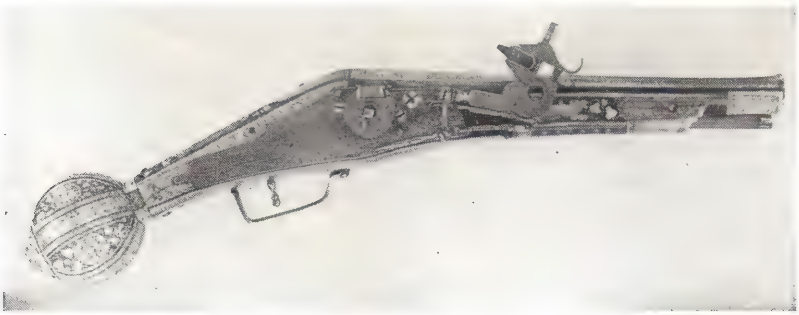
Armour of King Charles I entirely engraved with flowers and scroll foliage and gilt. Probably English c. 1640



Scottish pistol dated 1619

major part of the Tower collection of great cannon. In the north-west bay are iron guns of the early sixteenth century, the earliest in the Tower, including some interesting fragments recovered from the wreck of the *Mary Rose*, sunk in action with the French in 1545. Near by are bronze guns made for Henry VIII. It may be noticed that much of the armour hanging in the eastern bays is stamped with the name 'TOIRAS'. This is part of the largest war trophy surviving from a seventeenth-century campaign. It was brought to the Tower after the Ile de Rhé adventure of 1627, having been captured from the French under the command of Marshall Toiras, probably from the ship *St Esprit*.

This completes the tour of the White Tower, but, on leaving, the visitor might like to look out for some of the largest and oldest of the cannon



Wheel-lock pistol, German, c. 1580

which are displayed in the open. Of great historical interest is the so-called Dardanelles gun which lies outside the Lanthorn Tower (*see* plan). Given to Queen Victoria in 1868 by the Sultan of Turkey, it was made in 1464, in two parts which unscrew for ease of transport.

The Parade

This is the open space between the Waterloo Barracks on the north and the White Tower on the south. The Barracks were built in 1845 on the site of the Great Storehouse burnt in 1841. The building of similar character to the right contains the Regimental Headquarters and Museum of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

The Royal Fusiliers Museum

This contains relics and trophies dating from the formation of the regiment in 1685 to the present day, and a fine display of silver and china. Uniforms include those worn by George V as Colonel-in-Chief, and the collection of medals contains three Victoria Crosses. Dioramas depict the battles of Albuera (1811), Alma (1854), Mons (1914), and Cassino (1944), in which the Royal Fusiliers played a distinguished part.

The New Armouries

This late seventeenth-century building of red brick with two projecting wings has recently been restored to its original purpose to form an addition to the armouries in the White Tower, and covers the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. On the entrance floor is a representative collection of Oriental armour and weapons intended for comparison with the European, the centre of the room being dominated by an Indian armour for an elephant once the property of the first Lord Clive and probably a trophy from the battle of Plassey in 1757.

On the first floor are firearms both for war and for sporting purposes, many of them of the finest quality. They include one with a silver barrel presented by Louis XIV to the first Duke of Richmond, a garniture made for the Empress Elizabeth of Russia, and examples of the work of Manton and Boutet, and a series of British service muskets and rifles from the late seventeenth century to 1914. Towards the centre of the gallery stands the revolving gun invented by James Puckle in 1721. This fired round bullets against Christians and square ones against Turks. Notice, too, the examples of the work of the Rev. Alexander Forsyth, who invented the percussion system of ignition when working in the Tower. On this floor also are the

The Royal Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula – early sixteenth century

Study Collections containing a large collection of firearms of all countries, showing the development of breech and ignition mechanisms. It can be seen on written application to the Master of the Armouries.

The Royal Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

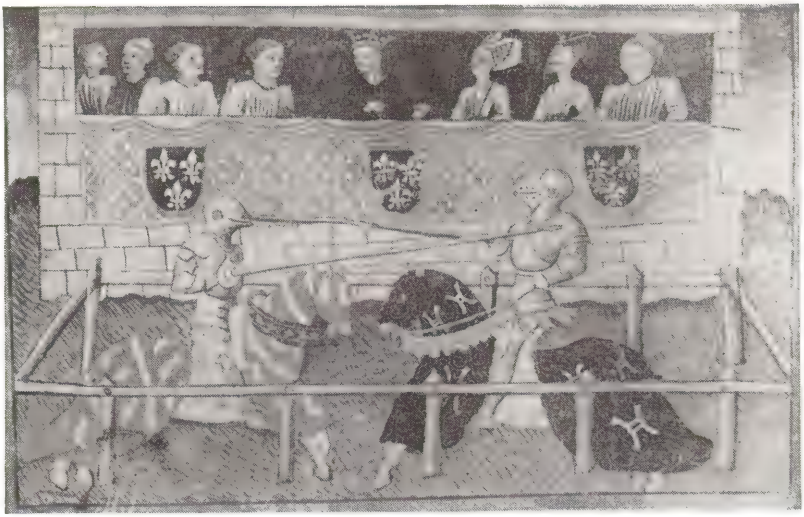
This is so called from having been consecrated on that well-known festival of the Latin Church, August 1st, probably in the reign of Henry I (1100–35). The chapel was rebuilt at the end of the thirteenth century. It was burnt in 1512 and almost entirely rebuilt, and has since then undergone a great deal of repair. (*For admission apply to Yeoman Warder.*) In the memorable words of Stow, writing in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, there lie before the high altar 'two dukes between two queens, to wit, the Duke of Somerset and the Duke of Northumberland, between Queen Anne and Queen Katharine, all four beheaded'. Here also are buried Lady Jane Grey and Lord Guildford Dudley, the Duke of Monmouth, and the Scottish lords, Kilmarnock, Balmerino, and Lovat, beheaded for their share in the rebellion of 1745. The last burial in the chapel was that of

Charles Wyndham, Keeper of the Regalia, in 1872; the canopied tomb of John Holland, Duke of Exeter and Constable of the Tower, who died in 1447, was brought here in 1951, having been previously moved from its original position in St Katherine's Hospital by the Tower in 1827. The altar frontal is of cloth used for coronation decorations in Westminster Abbey in 1937 and 1953.

Tower Green

The space south of the chapel is so called, and was used as a burial ground; in the middle is a small square plot paved with granite, showing the site on which stood at rare intervals the scaffold for private executions. It was paved by order of Queen Victoria. The following persons are known to have been executed on or near this spot:

1. William, Lord Hastings, by order of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, in June, 1483.
2. Queen Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, May 19th, 1536.
3. Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, the last of the old Angevin or Plantagenet family, May 27th, 1541.
4. Queen Katharine Howard, fifth wife of Henry VIII, February 13th, 1542.



A joust held at Tours in 1446 between John Chalons, an Englishman, and Loys de Boul, representing the king of France

The Queen's House

5. Jane, Viscountess Rochford, February 13th 1542.
6. Lady Jane Grey, wife of Lord Guildford Dudley, February 12th, 1554.
7. Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, February 25th, 1601.

They were all beheaded with an axe except Queen Anne Boleyn, whose head was cut off with a sword by an executioner brought over from St Omer. The bodies of all seven were buried in the Chapel of St Peter.

The Beauchamp Tower

This is on the west side of Tower Green, facing the White Tower, and is on the inner wall between the Bell Tower on the south and the Devereux Tower on the north, being connected with both by a walk along the wall-top. Its present name probably refers to the residence in it, as a prisoner, of Thomas, third Earl of Warwick, of the Beauchamp family, who was attainted under Richard II in 1397, but restored to his honours and liberty two years later under Henry IV. It is curious that the most interesting associations of the place should be with his successors in the earldom. Although built entirely for defensive purposes, we find it thus early used as a prison, and during the two following centuries it seems to have been

Prisoners' inscriptions on the walls of the Beauchamp Tower: Left, T. Salmon, 1622, centre; the Dudley Brothers, 1553; right, G. Gifford, 1586

regarded as one of the most convenient places in which to lodge prisoners of rank; in consequence many of the most interesting mural inscriptions are to be found in its chambers.

In plan the Beauchamp Tower is semicircular, and it projects 18ft [5·5m] beyond the face of the wall. It consists of three storeys, of which the middle one is on a level with the rampart, on which it formerly opened. The building dates from the reign of Edward I, though on the line of Richard I's defences; the brickwork is of the time of Henry VIII. It is entered at the south-east corner and a circular staircase ascends to the middle chamber, which is spacious and has a large window and a fireplace. Here are to be found most of the inscriptions, some having been brought from other chambers. A few are in the entrance passage and on the stairs. All are numbered and catalogued. The following – to which the numbers are appended – will be found the most interesting:

On the ground floor, near the entrance, ROBART DVDLEY (2). This was the fifth son of John, Duke of Northumberland, and next brother to Guildford Dudley, the husband of Lady Jane Grey. When his father was brought to the block in 1553 he and his brother remained in prison here, Robert being condemned to death in 1554. In the following year he was liberated with his elder brother, Ambrose, afterwards created Earl of Warwick, and his younger brother, Henry. In the first year of Queen Elizabeth I he was made Master of the Horse and chosen a Knight of the Garter. In 1564 he was created Earl of Leicester. He died at Cornbury, in Oxfordshire, in 1588.

On the left, at the entrance of the great chamber, is a carved cross, with

The Cannon Room in the vaults of the White Tower. The cannon are of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Tower Wharf, with St. Thomas's Tower and Traitors' Gate

Yeoman Warders on parade at the installation of a Constable

other religious emblems, with the name and arms of PEVEREL, and the date 1570 (8). It is supposed to have been cut by a Roman Catholic prisoner confined in the reign of Elizabeth I.

Over the fireplace this inscription in Latin: 'The more suffering for Christ in this world the more glory with Christ in the next', etc. (13). This is signed 'Arundel, June 22, 1587'. This was Philip Howard, son of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, beheaded in 1572. Philip inherited from his maternal grandfather the Earldom of Arundel in 1580. He was a staunch Roman Catholic and was constantly under suspicion of the Government, by which in 1584 he was confined in his own house for a short time. On his liberation he determined to quit the country, but was committed to the Tower in 1585, and died in custody ten years later, having refused release on condition of forsaking his religion. His body was buried in his father's grave in the Chapel of St Peter, but was eventually removed to Arundel. He left other inscriptions, one in the window (79), and one on the staircase (91), dated 1587.

On the right of the fireplace is an elaborate piece of sculpture (14), which will be examined with peculiar interest as a memorial of the five brothers Dudley: Ambrose (created Earl of Warwick 1561), Guildford (beheaded 1554), Robert (created Earl of Leicester 1546), and Henry (killed at the siege of St Quentin, 1557), carved by the eldest, John (called Earl of Warwick), who died in 1554. Under a bear and a lion supporting a ragged staff is the name of 'JOHN DVDLE' and surrounding them is a wreath of roses (for Ambrose), oak leaves (for Robert, *robur*, an oak), gillyflowers (for Guildford), and honeysuckle (for Henry). Below are four lines, one of them incomplete, alluding to the device and its meaning. It is on record that the Lieutenant of the Tower was allowed 6s. 8d. a day each for the diet of these captive brothers.

No. 33 is one of several inscriptions relating to the Poole or Pole family. (*See also* Nos. 45, 47, 52, 56, 57.) They were the grandsons of the Countess of Salisbury, who was beheaded in 1541. No. 45 contains the name of 'GEFFRYE POOLE 1562'. He was the second son, and he gave evidence against his elder brother, Lord Montagu, who was beheaded in 1539.

'IANE' (48). This interesting inscription, repeated also in the window (85), has always been supposed to refer to Lady Jane Grey, daughter of the Duke of Suffolk and wife of Guildford Dudley, fourth son of the Duke of Northumberland. A second repetition in another part of the room was unfortunately obliterated in the last century when a new window was made to fit this chamber for a mess-room. It is sometimes, but erroneously, supposed that the name was carved by this Queen of ten days herself, but it is improbable that she was ever imprisoned in the Beauchamp Tower.

St John's Chapel in the White Tower – c. 1080

Decorated capital in St John's Chapel

She is known to have lived in the house of Partridge, the Gaoler. It is much more probable that the two inscriptions were placed on the wall either by Lord Guildford Dudley, her husband, or by his brother, whose large device has been described above (14).

In the window is the rebus, or monogram, of Thomas Abell (66); upon a bell is the letter A. This was Dr Abell, a faithful servant to Queen Katharine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII. He acted as her chaplain during the progress of the divorce, and by his determined advocacy offended the King. For denying Royal supremacy in the Church he was condemned and executed in 1540. There are many other records of this kind in the Beauchamp Tower.

On leaving Beauchamp Tower and turning to the right the visitor sees, facing Tower Green,

The Queen's House

Until about 1880 this was called The Lieutenant's Lodgings. The present house was built in about 1530 and may have replaced the medieval constable's house. It is a good example of a timber-framed house and originally contained a spacious hall two storeys in height. A floor was later inserted in the upper part of the hall and the resultant room became known as the Council Chamber. It contains an elaborate contemporary memorial

Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, 1532–1588

Queen Elizabeth I, 1533–1603

Sir Walter Raleigh, 1552–1618

tablet of the Gunpowder Plot–it was in this room that the interrogation of the conspirators took place. In the north wing is the small room where Anne Boleyn spent the last days of her life. On the west side is the rampart known as Elizabeth's Walk. The doorway is that through which in 1716 Lord Nithsdale escaped in female attire the evening before he was to have been beheaded. As a result of the ill-starred Stuart rebellion of 1715,

Queen Anne Boleyn, 1507–1536

Judge Jeffreys, 1648–1689

Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, 1473–1541

Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, 1566–1601

Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, 1667–1747

St Thomas More, 1478–1535

Nithsdale and six other Scottish nobles were brought up to London and paraded through the streets to prison. They were tried in February, 1716, and condemned to death. Three were later pardoned. Nithsdale's young wife had braved snowbound roads all the way from their home in Dumfriesshire to plead for his life. When that failed, she persuaded a woman friend to put on two dresses and go with her to the condemned cell – where

Lord Nithsdale, 1676–1744

Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, 1485–1540

James, Duke of Monmouth, 1649–1685

Aisle in
St John's Chapel

Rampart south of Beauchamp Tower, known as Elizabeth's Walk

Nithsdale donned the spare dress and made good his escape, eventually travelling to Rome disguised, this time as one of the footmen of the Venetian Ambassador.

The interior of the Queen's House is not shown to the public. Next to it is the house of the Yeoman Gaoler. It was in this house that Lady Jane Grey lived when a prisoner, and from its windows saw her husband go forth from the adjoining Beauchamp Tower to his execution on Tower Hill and his headless body brought to the Chapel 'in a carre', while on the green in front, the scaffold was being prepared for her own execution on the same day, Monday, February 12th, 1554.

The Salt Tower

(*For admission to this Tower and the Martin Tower described below, please apply in writing to the Resident Governor.*)

This was formerly called Julius Caesar's Tower and is of special interest as containing more prisoners' inscriptions than any other, except the Beauchamp Tower; they are, moreover, in their original places, while many of those in the Beauchamp Tower are not. Among them the most conspicuous is the figure for casting horoscopes cut by Hew Draper of Bristol in 1561. He was sent to the Tower for an accusation of witchcraft against Lady St Lo, better known as Bess of Hardwick, and her husband Sir William St Lo. A finely cut armillary sphere is also to be seen, and a pierced heart, hand and foot occur in different places on the wall, signifying

Cannon on the river front

the five wounds of Christ. The name of Michael Moody, 1587, recalls a plot to murder Elizabeth I, and here as in the other tower are several inscriptions marked by the IHS monogram, with a cross above the H, a form commonly used by members of the Society of Jesus.

The Martin Tower

This is of Henry III's time though it has been much cut about and modernised. It had originally a single room on each floor, and remains of embrasures and the large stone fireplaces are to be seen. There are a number of prisoners' inscriptions, mostly of the early seventeenth century, about the time of the Gunpowder Plot. This tower was formerly inhabited by the Keeper of the Regalia, and was the scene of the attempt by Colonel Blood in 1671 to steal the State Crown and other regalia. Having first spied out the land in clerical disguise, and ingratiated himself with the old keeper, Talbot Edwards, Blood came back with two accomplices, all being armed with pistols, swordsticks and daggers. Leaving poor Edwards for dead (in fact, he died a few years afterwards), Blood hid the Crown under his cloak, while one companion put the Orb in his breeches pocket,

The Wharf with the Lanthorn Tower and Cradle Tower in the background

and the other started filing the Sceptre in half to carry away. At this point they were disturbed by Edward's son; and in the running fight that followed, Blood and his companions were captured.

Blood's enigmatic remark that 'it was a brave attempt, for it was for a crown', coupled with the fact that Charles II not only pardoned him forthwith, but conferred a pension and certain Irish estates on him, led some to suppose either that Charles, in need of money, had commissioned Blood to steal the treasures, or that Blood knew some awkward secrets about the King.

The Martin Tower was damaged by bomb-blast in the last war.

Bastion of the Roman London Wall

The remains of the medieval Wardrobe Tower incorporate the base of a Roman tower of U-shaped plan and apparently hollow. This base of rubble masonry with a double bonding course of tiles set in pink mortar stands to a height of 5 ft [1·5 m]. The large-gritted buff mortar of the Roman rubble work is quite distinct from the whitish mortar of the medieval reconstruction. There is also a 10-ft [3·0 m] length of wall standing to a

Firing a Royal Salute

height of nearly 5ft [1·5m] at the back of the Wardrobe Tower. The line of this fragment, if produced southwards, would strike the Lanthorn Tower (*see plan*).

North Front

On the outer circuit of wall at the north-west and north-east angles are two bastions added by Henry VIII, known as Legge's Mount and Brass Mount respectively. There was a similar bastion at the north angle, added in the reign of Queen Victoria at the time of the Chartist riots – the last addition to the fortifications of the Tower. Its destruction by a German bomb on October 5th, 1940, revealed the original line of the Curtain Wall, which has now been rebuilt instead of the bastion. Two other buildings of the Tower were destroyed by enemy bombs, the modern Main Guard between the Wakefield and White Towers (December 29th, 1940 – *see page* 14), and the north end of the late eighteenth-century 'Hospital Block', to the east of the White Tower (September 22nd, 1940), now rebuilt.

River Front and Wharf

East of St Thomas's Tower two further towers should be noted on the

outer curtain. The Cradle Tower is a fourteenth-century water-gate with a contemporary vault similar to that in the gate-passage beneath the Bloody Tower, but the present upper part of the tower dates from the nineteenth century. Further to the east and beyond a modern entrance through the curtain, the Well Tower also has an original vault of the time of Henry III.

The Wharf itself in its present form is relatively recent, but evidence for a wharf at the Tower of London goes back to the early fourteenth century, and by the end of that century a stone wharf stretched along practically the whole of the river frontage of the Tower.

Here may be seen a number of guns of historic interest from many parts of the world.

Tradition of the Tower

Among events of tradition and pageantry that take place at the Tower the following should be mentioned, one occurring daily, one frequently, and two at regular intervals:

The Ceremony of the Keys

A ceremony centuries old is enacted every night at 10 p.m. when the main gates of the Tower are locked. Five minutes before the hour the Chief Yeoman Warder joins an escort consisting of a sergeant and three men who are detailed to help him close the three gates. When the keys return, the sentry calls a challenge: 'Halt, who goes there?' The Chief Warder replies: 'The keys.' The exchange continues with 'Whose keys?' – 'Queen Elizabeth's keys.' Then the guard present arms: the Chief Warder, doffing his Tudor bonnet, calls: 'God preserve Queen Elizabeth'; and the whole guard respond: 'Amen.' The keys are finally carried by the Chief Warder to the Queen's House where they are secured for the night.

Royal Salutes

The Governor of the Tower has the duty of giving notice in writing to the Honourable Artillery Company that a Royal Salute is due to be fired from the Tower on a particular day. For a great State event the proper salute is 62 guns; likewise for the anniversary of the Sovereign's birth, accession, or coronation. When Parliament is opened by the Sovereign in person the appropriate salute is 41 guns; it is the same for the birth of a Royal infant. A detachment of the Honourable Artillery Company take four guns to the Tower, setting them up in the Gun Park in the forenoon; the salute having been discharged, the guns are returned on the same day.

The Execution Block and Axe

Beating the Bounds

In Anglo-Saxon times it was the boys who were beaten at parish boundaries so that they were made sure of remembering them; nowadays the boys give instead of receiving a beating. Every third year at Rogation-tide the bounds of the Tower Liberty are beaten by choirboys of the Royal Chapel and children dwelling within the Tower. After a service in St Peter ad Vincula a procession is formed by the Governor, Chaplain, Warders, residents, and choir, the children carrying white wands. There are 31 boundary stones, and at each of them the Chaplain proclaims: 'Cursed is he who removeth his neighbours' landmark', and the Chief Warder urges the beaters on with: 'Whack it, boys, whack it.'

Installation of the Constable

The office of Constable of the Tower has existed almost since the Norman Conquest, for William I made the first appointment about 1078 to reward Geoffrey de Mandeville for good service at Hastings and elsewhere. Always regarded as an office of honour and dignity – in the Middle Ages, of profit also – it is held by Royal Letters Patent under the Great Seal and confers the privilege of audience and direct communication with the Sovereign. In 1933 the tenure was altered from life to five years. A long line of distinguished prelates, soldiers, and statesmen who have been Constable includes William Longchamp, Bishop of Ely; Walter de Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter; the Duke of Wellington, from 1826 to 1852 (since when every Constable has been a soldier); Lord Napier of Magdala;

Choirboys of St Peter ad Vincula beating the bounds

Lord Wavell; Lord Alanbrooke; Lord Wilson of Libya; and since 1970 Field-Marshal Sir Richard Hull.

When a new Constable is installed a traditional ceremony is carried out on Tower Green. The Yeoman Warders, a body appointed by Henry VII, form up in a circle, while a detachment of troops and trumpeters are in attendance. The Lord Chamberlain arrives at the steps near the Bloody Tower and proceeds to the Queen's House, where the keys are handed to him by the Lieutenant of the Tower. The Sovereign's proclamation that the new incumbent shall 'have, hold, exercise, and enjoy' his functions having been read by the Lieutenant, the keys are delivered to him by the Lord Chamberlain, whereupon the Chief Warder cries: 'God preserve Queen Elizabeth', and all the Warders respond: 'Amen.' The new Constable inaugurates his office by carrying out an inspection of the Warders and troops on parade.

The Ravens

Ravens were once common in London's streets and were protected for the services they rendered as scavengers. It is probable that there have always been ravens at the Tower, and there is a legend that the Tower will fall if it loses its ravens. The birds are therefore carefully guarded. Six are kept 'on the establishment' and are cared for by a Yeoman Warder who is the Yeoman Quartermaster.

Each bird receives a weekly allowance of 15p worth of horseflesh. They have their own quarters in a cage by the Lanthorn Tower.

Before their wings were clipped ravens have wandered from the Tower, and there was one that used to fly off to perch on St Paul's Cathedral. In the winter of 1889–90 a bird, probably this same one, took up residence in Kensington Gardens.

Ravens can attain a good age and one of the Tower birds, James Crow, was a resident for 44 years. The birds are not popular with everyone; they are often noisy, and will amuse themselves by removing putty from windows, causing damage to unattended cars, and taking sly pecks at ladies' legs!

Ravens on Tower Green

Acknowledgments

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General Information

Photography, Sketching. Exteriors of buildings: no pass required. Interiors of Chapels Royal, Beauchamp, and Bloody Towers*, and Armouries†: passes required.

* To be obtained beforehand from the Constable's office. (01-709 0765.)
† To be obtained from the Master of the Armouries, White Tower, Tower of London, E.C.3 (01-709 0765). Passes not required for hand cameras in the White Tower and New Armouries.

Guides. Yeoman Warder Guides, if available, can be obtained at Byward Tower.

Restaurant. Open to the public on days when the Tower is open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in winter.

Wharf front. Open, admission free, through East and West Gates. Weekdays: 7 a.m. to sunset. Sundays: 10 a.m. to sunset.

Transport

Railways. Liverpool Street Station, ¾ mile (78 bus). London Bridge Station, ½ mile (47 bus to Tower Bridge Road, then 6 minutes' walk or 42 or 78 bus).

Buses. 42, 78, or any bus crossing London Bridge.

Green Line Coaches. Minories Coach Station, ¼ mile (42 or 78 bus).

Underground. Tower Hill Station (Inner Circle or District), 2 minutes' walk.

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Printed in England for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd, Thanet Press, Margate.
Cover by A. Wheaton & Co. Ltd, Exeter. Dd. 503451 K 7/71

ROMAN

WILLIAM I & II
1066 - 1100

RICHARD I & JOHN
1189 - 1216

HENRY III
1216 - 72

EDWARD I
1272 - 1307

EDWARD III & RICHARD II
C.1350 - 99

HENRY VIII
1509 - 47

17th Century

18th Century

19th & 20th Centuries

(Broken lines indicate buried foundations)

Moat
Legge's Mount
Casemates
Line of
Casemates
Devereux Tower
Flint Tower
Bowyer Tower
Brick Tower
Brass Mount
D
E
Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula
Waterloo Barracks
Martin Tower
Entrance to Jewel House
Roman
Museum
Constable Tower
Site of Block
White Tower
Beauchamp Tower
D
Coldharbour Gate
A
Tower Green
Hospital Block
Moat
Site of Bulwark Gate
Ticket Office
Entrance
Causeway
D
E
B
A
Site of Lion Tower (Barbican)
Middle Tower
Bell Tower
Queen's House
Chapel of St. John (over)
Wardrobe Tower (on site of Bastion)
Broad Arrow Tower
C
Byward Tower
Bloody Tower
City Wall
New Armouries
Moat
Wakefield Tower
Site of Great Hall
Queen's Stair
The Wharf
Traitors Gate
St. Thomas's Tower
Salt Tower
D
E
Lanthorn Tower
Moat
Cradle Tower
Well Tower
Develin Tower
The Wharf

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