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The Tower of London

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The aim of my work is the great
Tower of London with its mysteries,
values, ghosts and inhabitants.



What does the Tower represent?

This short history of the Tower of London charts the different stages of its development. Throughout its history, the Tower has attracted a number of important functions and its role as armoury, royal palace, prison and fortress is explained, as well as its modern role as tourist attraction and home to a thriving community.

Today the Tower of London is one of the world's major tourist attractions and many visitors a year come to discover its long and eventful history, its buildings, ceremonies and traditions.



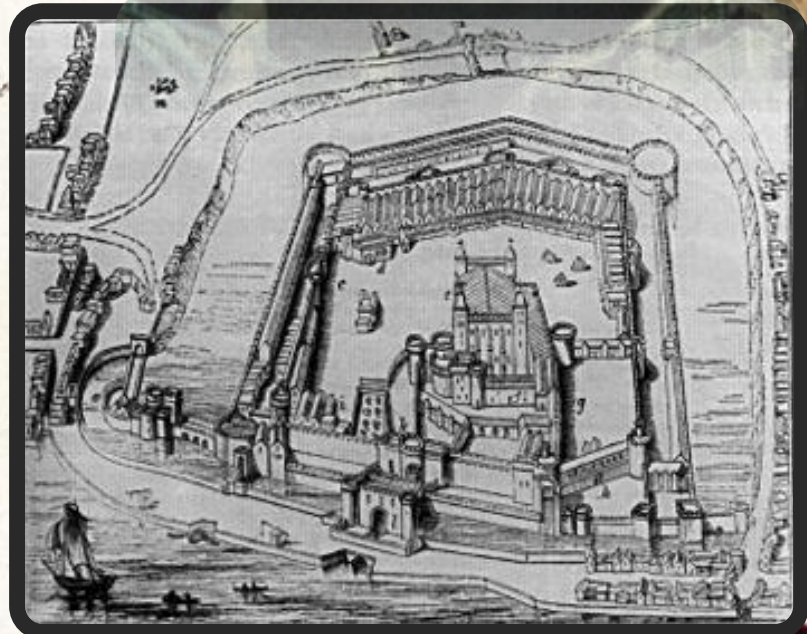
Floor of the Norman Chapel –
the oldest church in all of
England

The area near the Tower of London

As different kings and queens ruled England, they each added a certain building to the Tower. Henry III was the one to make the White Tower cozy.

After wards the Lion Tower was added, where lions were kept for entertainment.

These are bird's eye views
of the *Tower of London*
area.



The Towers



There are 21 different towers which form a major part of the great London castle complex. The names of the different Towers are as follows just click the following links for interesting facts and information about each of the Towers.

[The White Tower](#)

[The Bloody Tower](#)

[Beauchamp Tower](#)

[Bell Tower](#)

[Bowyer Tower](#)

[Brick Tower](#)

[Broad Arrow Tower](#)

[Byward Tower](#)

[Constable Tower](#)

[Cradle Tower](#)

[Develin Tower](#)

[Deveraux Tower](#)

[Flint Tower](#)

[Lanthorn Tower](#)

[Martin Tower](#)

[Middle Tower](#)

[St Thomas's Tower](#)

[Salt Tower](#)

[Wakefield Tower](#)

[Wardrobe Tower](#)

[Well Tower](#)

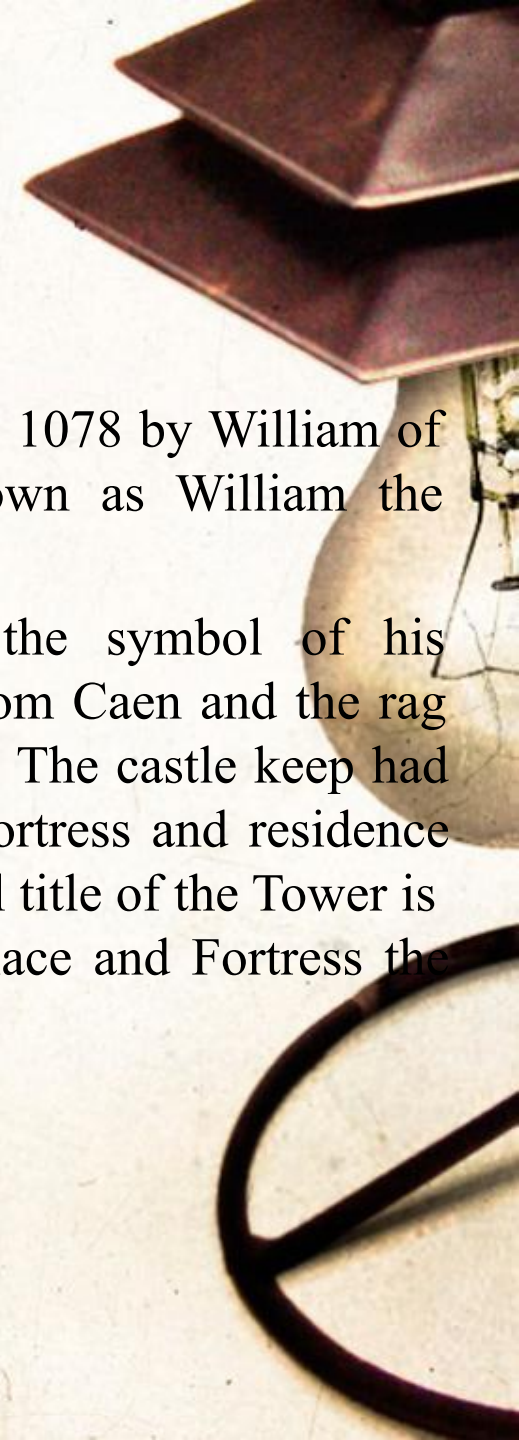


The White Tower



The White Tower was built in 1078 by William of Normandy, who is also known as William the Conqueror.

The Tower of London is the symbol of his power. The limestone came from Caen and the rag stone was brought from Kent. The castle keep had a dual function: as military fortress and residence for the ruler. Today the official title of the Tower is still 'Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London.'



The Bloody Tower



This is the Bloody Tower, formerly known as the Garden Tower.



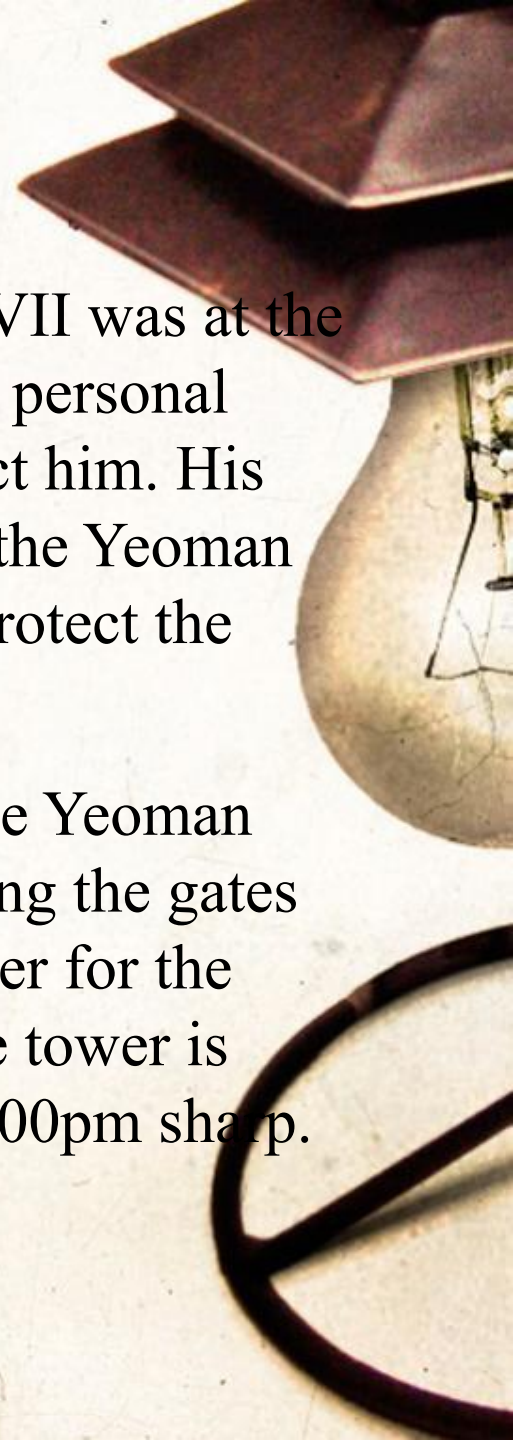
A number of people were imprisoned at the Bloody Tower, one of them happens to be Sir Walter Raleigh who wrote *History of the World* while being imprisoned there.

The Yeoman Warders



When King Henry VII was at the throne, he formed a personal bodyguard to protect him. His guards were called the Yeoman Warders who still protect the Tower today.

- On this photo the Yeoman Warder is entering the gates to open the Tower for the day. At night the tower is locked up at 10:00pm sharp.

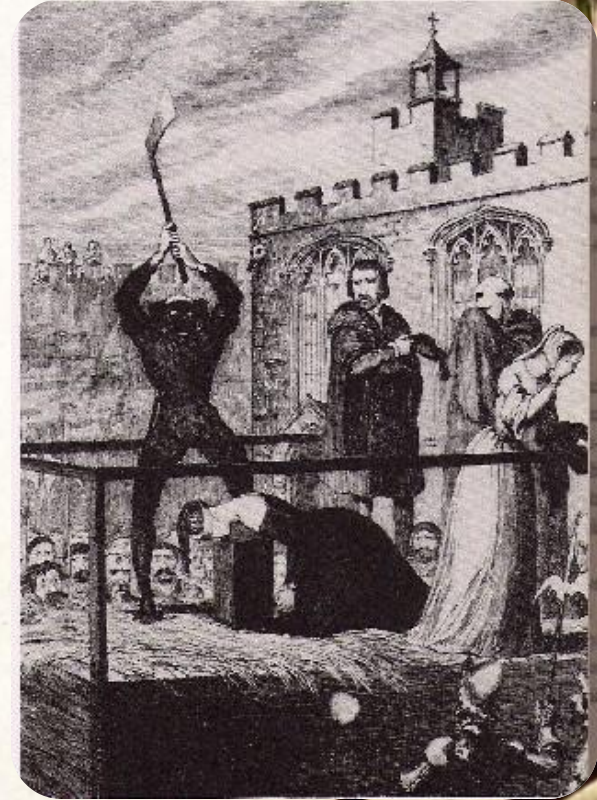


Prisoners of the Tower of London



The people executed or imprisoned at the Tower were:

- Queen Elizabeth I – she is known to be the only one who left the tower unexecuted.
- Anne Boleyn – she was murdered because Henry VIII was unsatisfied with the fact that she couldn't give him a son.
- Sir Thomas More
- Lady Jane Grey



Here is an example of what an execution might have looked like.

Legends of the Tower

The most famous legend is the one about two boys: Richard Duke of York and his brother Edward V.



According to Tudor historians, Richard, Duke of Gloucester invented a story declaring the boys illegitimate and convinced the Parliament that they can't become kings. Then he murdered the boys. They believe this because they think one of Richard's former officials confessed 20 years after the crime was committed. Young skeleton bones were found under some stairs in the tower in the 17th century, so it is assumed that those are the bones of the two boys.



Here is a photo of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who was later crowned as Richard III.

The most interesting of all legends involves the 6 ravens living inside the Tower.

There is a belief that if they ever leave the Tower, it will crumble and the British Monarchy will fall apart.

This may sound ridiculous, but it could be true because the ravens weren't at the castle during WWI or WWII.



Another interesting legend concerns Queen Elizabeth I: she was disappointed when told that she would be entering through Traitor's Gate because she didn't think of herself as a "traitor".

Literature

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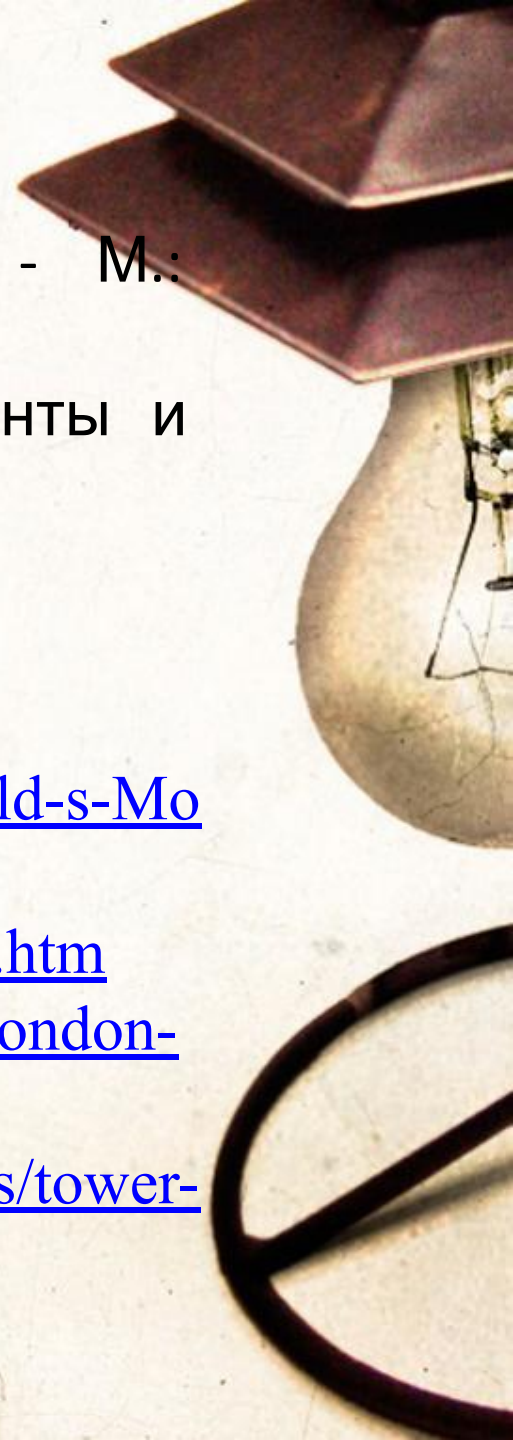
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Thanks for your attention!

