

The Royal Exchange



The Royal Exchange in the City of London was founded in 1565 by Sir Thomas Gresham to act as a centre of commerce for the city. The site was provided by the City of London Corporation and the Worshipful Company of Mercers, and is trapezoidal, flanked by the converging streets of Cornhill and Threadneedle Street. The design was inspired by a bourse Gresham had seen in Antwerp.

The Royal Exchange was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth I who awarded the building its Royal title, on 23 January 1571.

Gresham's original building was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. A second exchange was built on the site, designed by Edward Jarman, which opened in 1669, and was also destroyed by fire on 10 January 1838.

The third Royal Exchange building, which still stands today, was designed by Sir William Tite.

It was opened by Queen Victoria on 28 October 1844, though trading did not commence until 1 January 1845.

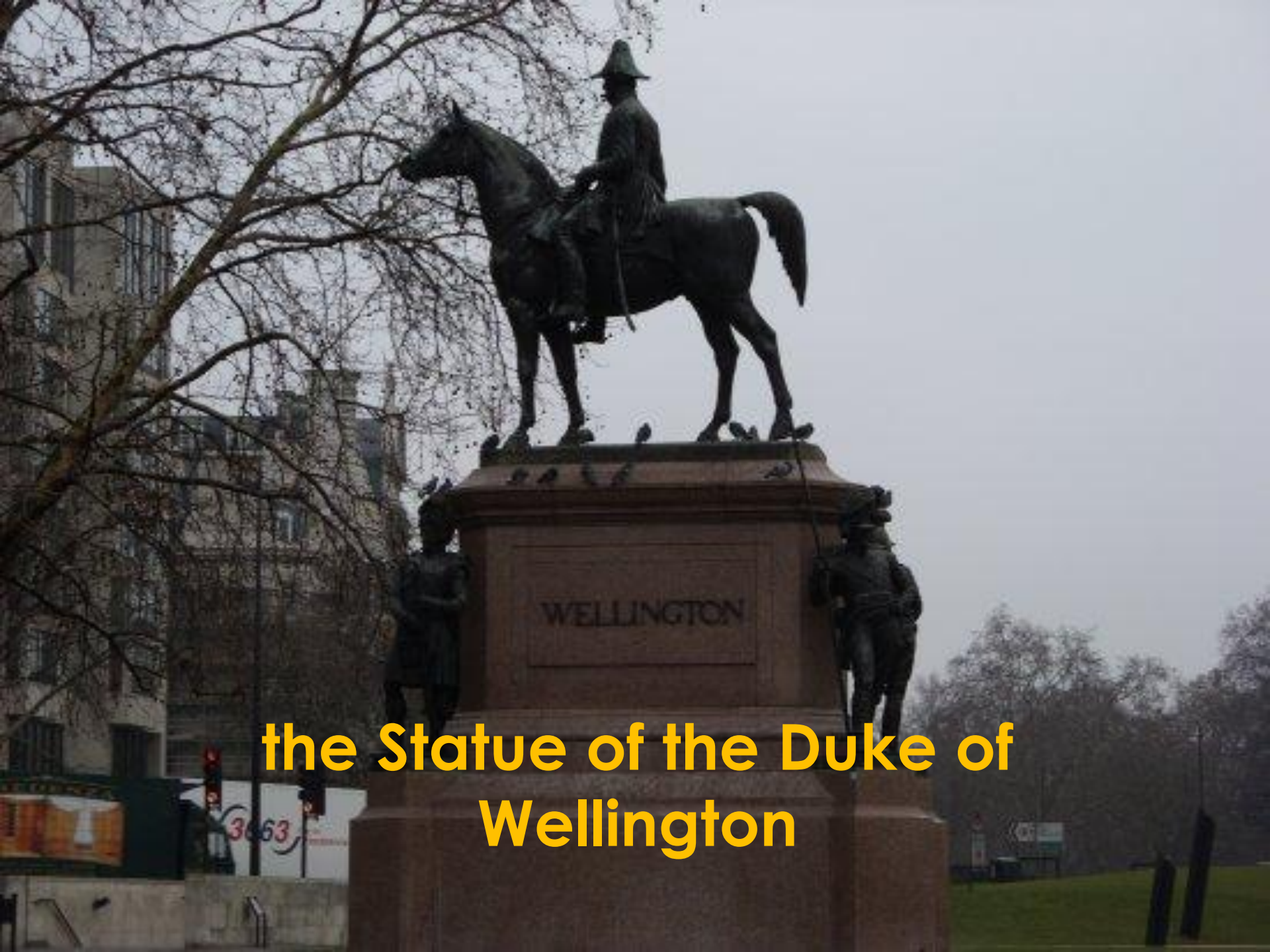


The Royal Exchange ceased to act as a centre of commerce in 1939



It is a luxurious shopping centre now.
Shops in the Royal Exchange include Hermès, Molton Brown, Paul Smith, Haines & Bonner, Tiffany and Jo Malone.





the Statue of the Duke of Wellington

The Wellington Statue in Aldershot is a monument to Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington victor at the Battle of Waterloo and later Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Sculpted by Matthew Cotes Wyatt, it was the largest equestrian statue in Britain when it was unveiled at its original location at Hyde Park Corner in 1846.

The sculptor was Matthew Cotes Wyatt.

At the time it was the largest equestrian statue in Britain, being 30 feet (9.1 m) high, 26 feet (7.9 m) from Copenhagen's nose to tail, and 22 feet 8 inches (6.91 m) in girth. It weighed 40 tons.[2] In 1846 the statue was moved with great pageantry from Wyatt's workshop to Hyde Park Corner

Move to Aldershot

In 1883 the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII, suggested that it should be moved to Aldershot Military Town, "where it will be highly regarded by the Army." Eventually Parliament agreed with his suggestion and the statue was taken to Aldershot for reassembly.

On a visit to Aldershot, the Prince of Wales selected Round Hill close by the Royal Garrison Church as the new site for the Statue. Moving Wyatt's creation from London was no mean feat. However, it was successfully and ceremoniously handed to the British Army in August 1885 in front of a large crowd of onlookers.

The British Museum



If you are planning to visit London, then the most interesting place to see is the British Museum. The British Museum displays a wealth of British art masterpieces which include some of the famous antiquities and documents that are related to British history. The four most well known masterpieces that attract the world are the Rosetta Stone, Elgin Marbles, the Great Court and the Magna Carta.

The British Museum is a museum of human history and culture in London. Its collections, which number more than seven million objects, are amongst the largest and most comprehensive in the world and originate from all continents, illustrating and documenting the story of human culture from its beginnings to the present.



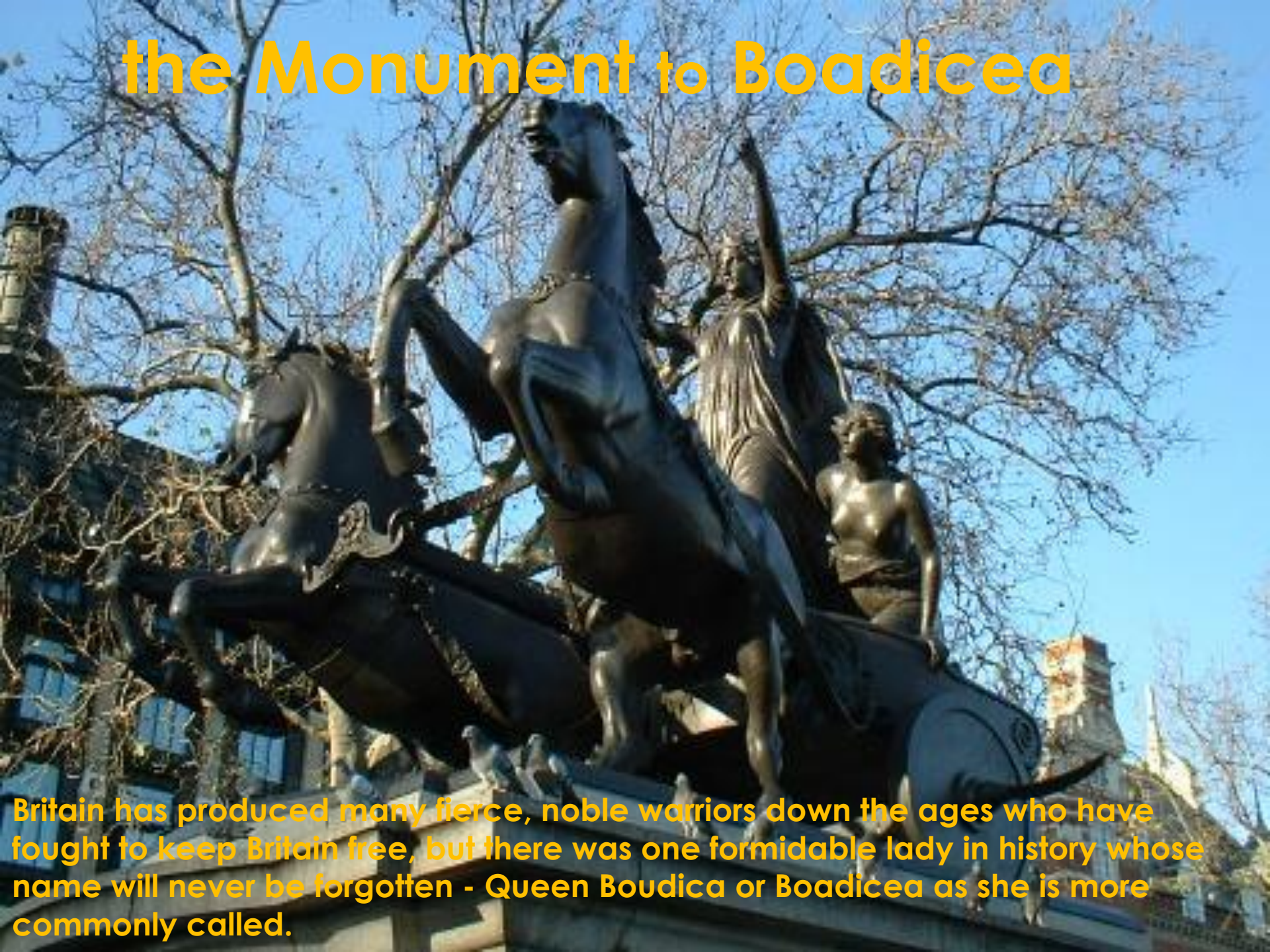


The British Museum was established in 1753, largely based on the collections of the physician and scientist Sir Hans Sloane. The museum first opened to the public on 15 January 1759 in Montagu House in Bloomsbury, on the site of the current museum building. Its expansion over the following two and a half centuries was largely a result of an expanding British colonial footprint and has resulted in the creation of several branch institutions, the first being the British Museum (Natural History) in South Kensington in 1887. Some objects in the collection, most notably the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon, are the objects of intense controversy and of calls for restitution to their countries of origin.



Until 1997, when the British Library (previously centred on the Round Reading Room) moved to a new site, the British Museum was unique in that it housed both a national museum of antiquities and a national library in the same building. The museum is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and as with all other national museums in the United Kingdom it charges no admission fee. Since 2002 the director of the museum has been Neil MacGregor.

the Monument to Boadicea



Britain has produced many fierce, noble warriors down the ages who have fought to keep Britain free, but there was one formidable lady in history whose name will never be forgotten - Queen Boudica or Boadicea as she is more commonly called.

Boudica was a striking looking woman. - "She was very tall, the glance of her eye most fierce; her voice harsh. A great mass of the reddest hair fell down to her hips. Her appearance was terrifying."

The trouble started when Prasutagus, hoping to curry favour with the Romans, made the Roman Emperor Nero co-heir with his daughters to his considerable kingdom and wealth. He hoped by this ploy, to keep his kingdom and household free from attack.

Unfortunately the Roman Governor of Britain at that time was Suetonius Paulinus who had other ideas on the subject of lands and property. After Prasutagus's death his lands and household were plundered by the Roman officers and Britain has produced many fierce, noble warriors down the ages who have fought to keep Britain free, but there was one formidable lady in history whose name will never be forgotten - Queen Boudica or Boadicea as she is more commonly called.

Not surprisingly these outrages provoked the Iceni, Trinobantes and other tribes to rebel against the Romans.

The Britons attacked crowding in on the Roman defensive line

The Romans moved in for the kill, attacking in tight formation, stabbing with their short swords.

Boudica was not killed in the battle but took poison rather than be taken alive by the Romans.

She has secured a special place of her own in British folk history remembered for her courage; The Warrior Queen who fought the might of Rome. And in a way she did get her revenge, as in 1902 a bronze statue of her riding high in her chariot, designed by Thomas Thorneycroft, was placed on the Thames embankment next to the Houses of Parliament in the old Roman capital of Britain.

