

Tudor Life

The Tudor Society Magazine

THE
TUDOR
SOCIETY

Special Article:
**Anne Boleyn and
The Tower of London**
by Roland Hui

Members magazine also includes

MASSIVE 57 Page Special on Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn's connection to the Magna Carta barons *by Marilyn Roberts*

Richard III and Elizabeth of York – Romance or the Rumour Mill? *Olga Hughes*

Medieval Medicine - 'A Poison of Treaders' *Toni Mount*

Les Tudors - The *exquisite* Paris Exhibition in detail *Melanie V. Taylor*

"She is My Death and I Am Hers" - Anne Boleyn and Mary *Kyra Kramer*

Will Kemp and The Nine Dates Wonder *Jane Moulder*

Special Report!

May 2015



Hello all!
As you probably know, as well as running The Anne Boleyn Files website, 10 months ago I also started the Tudor Society. The new society aims to give a wider picture on the Tudor period, and has regular contributions from a very wide range of historians and experts.

Each month in the Tudor Society we have a packed magazine, an expert lecture, a live chat with a historian plus lots of members-only give away prizes, articles and information AND it's all available online to members worldwide. We even had our first get-together earlier this year in Paris.

I do hope you enjoy this article written by Roland Hui about Anne Boleyn and that you'll consider joining with the other members at www.TudorSociety.com!

Clare

Pages 4-13



Pages 20-26



Pages 2-57

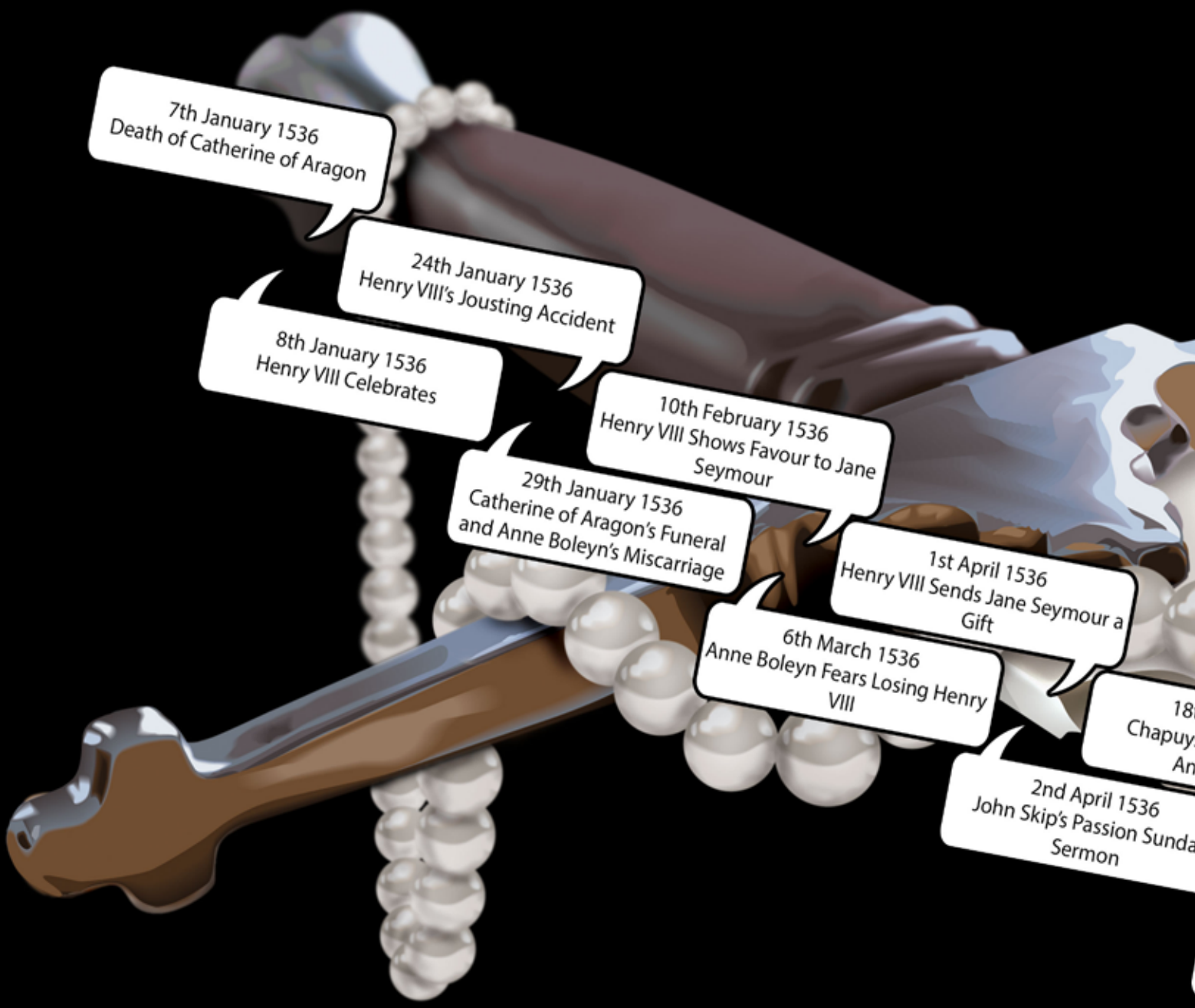


Tudor Life

FULL MAGAZINE

SPECIAL EDITION: ANNE BOLEYN

- 2** The Evidence leading to Anne Boleyn's Fall
by Clare Cherry
- 4** Remembering Magna Carta, a Rebel Baron and Two Wives of Henry VIII
by Marilyn Roberts
- 14** Anne Boleyn's Fall
by Claire Ridgway
- 20** Anne Boleyn and The Tower of London
by Roland Hui
- 26** My first encounter with Anne Boleyn
by Gareth Russell
- 28** All the King's Men
by Beth von Staats
- 31** Tower Maze
by Tim Ridgway
- 32** She is My Death and I am Hers
by Kyra Kramer
- 35** Anne Boleyn's Execution
by Claire Ridgway
- 38** In the Footsteps of Anne Boleyn
by Charlie Fenton
- 40** George Boleyn
by Clare Cherry
- 44** Thomas Wyatt's Execution Poems
by Claire Ridgway
- 50** Extract from Phoenix Rising
by Hunter S. Jones
- 56** Anne Boleyn's Aunts
by Elizabeth Norton
- 60** On this day in Tudor History
by Claire Ridgway
- 62** 'A Poison of Treaclers'
by Toni Mount
- 66** May Feast Days
by Claire Ridgway
- 68** Richard III and Elizabeth of York – Romance or the Rumour Mill?
by Olga Hughes
- 74** Will Kemp and The Nine Daies Wonder
by Jane Moulder
- 80** Les Tudors – The exquisite Paris Exhibition in detail
by Melanie V. Taylor
- 100** Les Tudors Paris get-together
- 102** **BONUS!** Live chat session with Jessie Childs!



Part 1 - THE BUILD-UP TO ARREST

During the spring of 1536 in England, events conspire to bring down Anne Boleyn, Queen of England.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS,
VISIT www.TheFallOfAnneBoleyn.com



THE FALL OF ANNE BOLEYN

1st April 1536
Anne Boleyn
Bows to Queen
Anne Boleyn

24th April 1536
The Commissions of Oyer and
Terminer

22nd April 1536
Archbishop Cranmer's
Strange Letter

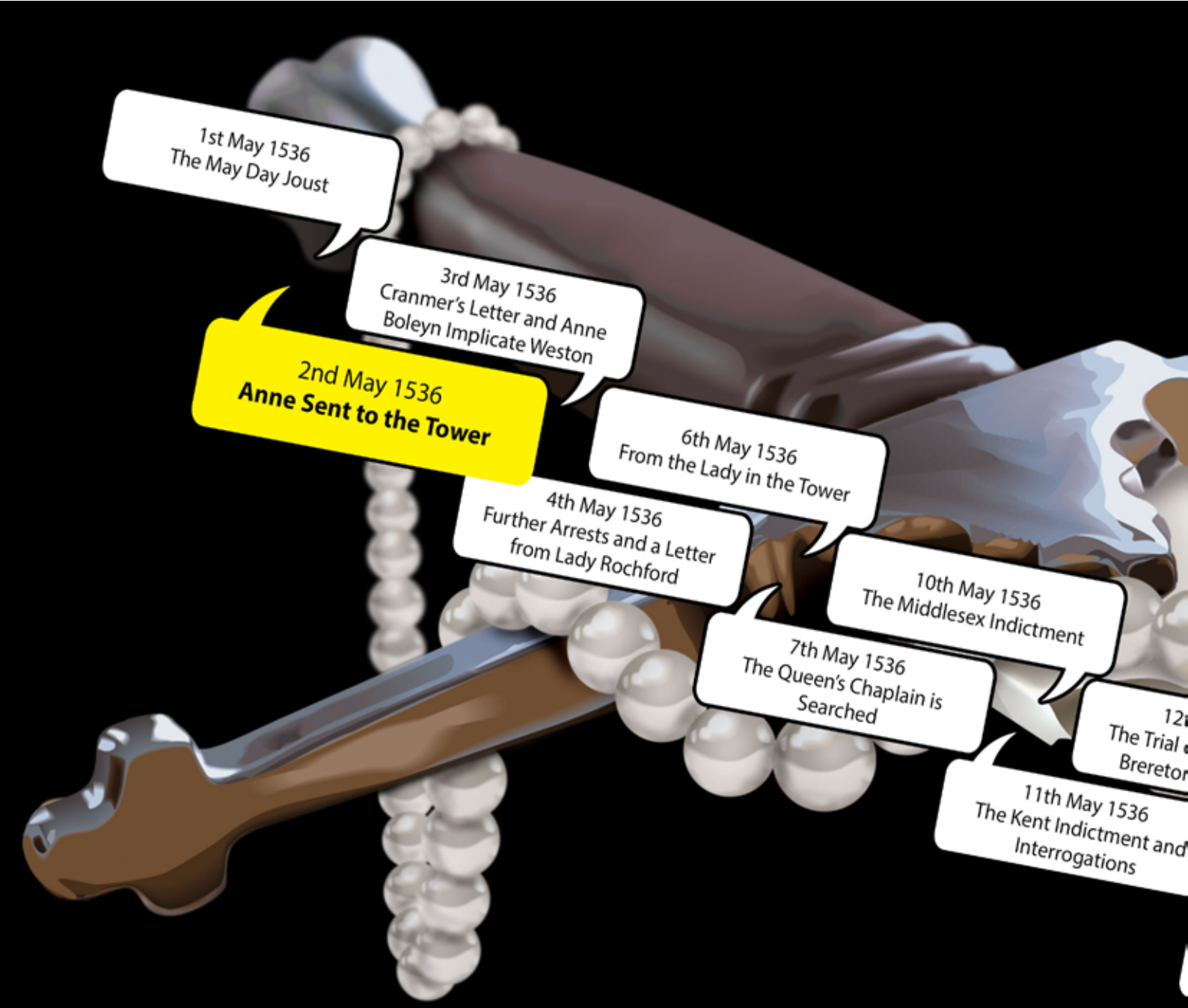
26th April 1536
Anne Boleyn Meets with
Matthew Parker

25th April 1536
Most Entirely Beloved Wife

29th April 1536
Dead Men's Shoes

27th April 1536
Parliament Summoned

30th April 1536
An Argument and
Smeaton arrested



1st May 1536
The May Day Joust

3rd May 1536
Cranmer's Letter and Anne
Boleyn Implicate Weston

2nd May 1536
Anne Sent to the Tower

6th May 1536
From the Lady in the Tower

4th May 1536
Further Arrests and a Letter
from Lady Rochford

10th May 1536
The Middlesex Indictment

7th May 1536
The Queen's Chaplain is
Searched

12th May 1536
The Trial of
Brereton

11th May 1536
The Kent Indictment and
Interrogations

Part 2 - A FATEFUL MAY

Within 17 days of the arrest, the coup against the Queen results in the brutal executions of six innocent people – Anne Boleyn herself, her brother, and four courtiers.

By the end of the month, Henry VIII is married to his new queen - Jane Seymour.

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VISIT www.TheFallOfAnneBoleyn.com



THE FALL OF ANNE BOLEYN

14th May 1536
Execution of Norris, Weston,
Cromwell and Smeaton

16th May 1536
Archbishop Cranmer
Visits Anne Boleyn

15th May 1536
The Trials of **Anne Boleyn**
and George Boleyn

18th May 1536
Postponement and
Preparation

17th May 1536
The Executions of Five Men

20th May 1536
A Royal Betrothal

19th May 1536
**Queen Anne Boleyn's
Execution**

30th May 1536
Henry VIII Marries
Jane Seymour

The real truth about the Tudors...



THE FALL OF
ANNE BOLEYN
A Countdown

CLAIRE RIDGWAY

ANNE BOLEYN AND THE TOWER OF LONDON

by Roland Hui

“Master Kingston, shall I go into a dungeon?”

“No, Madam, you shall go into your lodging that you lay in at your coronation.”

“It is too good for me,” she said, ... and in the same sorrow fell into a great laughing.

FOR Anne Boleyn, the Tower of London was both a place of triumph and of tragedy. In the Summer of 1533, she entered the great citadel in preparation of her crowning as Queen of England. But her reign was short. In May 1536, Anne was brought to the Tower again; this time as an accused traitor to die within its walls.

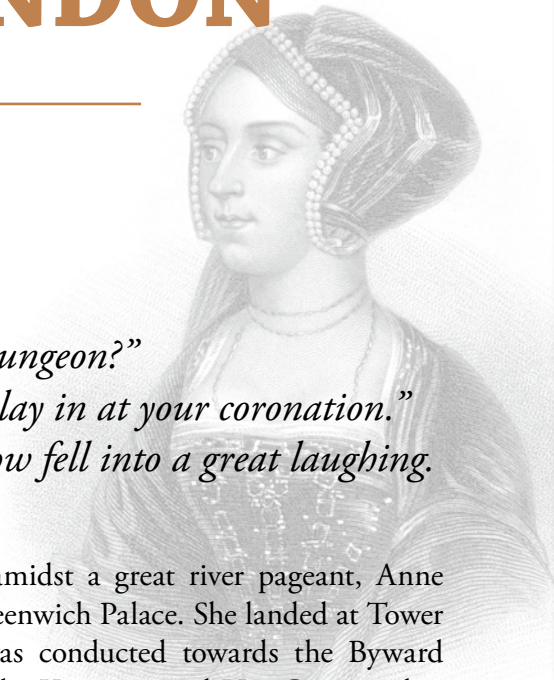
In the Medieval and Tudor eras, the Tower of London was more than the fearful prison it is generally known as today, it was also a royal palace, an archive, a zoo, an armoury, a mint, and a storehouse for regalia. Just as the Crown Jewels are put on display in the present day, in the time of Henry VIII, the regalia and other valuables were kept there for safekeeping. To impress the French ambassador who paid him a visit at the Tower in December 1532, the King ‘showed him all the treasure.’ A few days afterwards, another tour was arranged for the envoy, this time with Anne Boleyn present. The Tower was being refurbished for her impending coronation (she was expecting to be married soon), and we can imagine Anne’s excitement in visiting the royal apartments being made ready for her. The wait was short. In January 1533, she and the King were secretly married, and soon she was pregnant. At Easter, Anne was formally acknowledged as Queen, and all that was left was her crowning.

Following tradition, Anne stayed at the Tower before proceeding to Westminster Abbey.

On May 29, amidst a great river pageant, Anne sailed from Greenwich Palace. She landed at Tower Wharf, and was conducted towards the Byward Tower where ‘the King received Her Grace with a loving countenance.’ The royal couple rested in the royal lodgings until the coronation ceremony set for Whitsunday.

In contrast to the joyous occasion of her crowning, Anne’s next journey to the Tower was a harrowing one. Accused of adultery, the Queen was taken by water again from Greenwich to imprisonment on the afternoon of May 2, 1536. Where once she was received by a jubilant Henry VIII, this time she was met by the sombre faced Constable of the Tower Sir William Kingston. Terrified and confused, Anne was in hysterics, weeping and laughing at the same time. Her only comfort was that she was not to be held in a prison cell, but in the apartments she had once stayed.

Presumably, Anne was strictly confined to her rooms. Outside the palace were gardens where prisoners might be allowed to take exercise. However, there was no mention in Kingston’s letters detailing Anne’s imprisonment that she was ever permitted out of doors. When Anne did venture out it was to her trial in the near by Great Hall. There, she was found guilty and condemned. The fatal sentence was carried out upon Tower Green on the morning of May 19, ending Anne’s reign of ‘three years, lacking fourteen days, from her coronation to her death.’

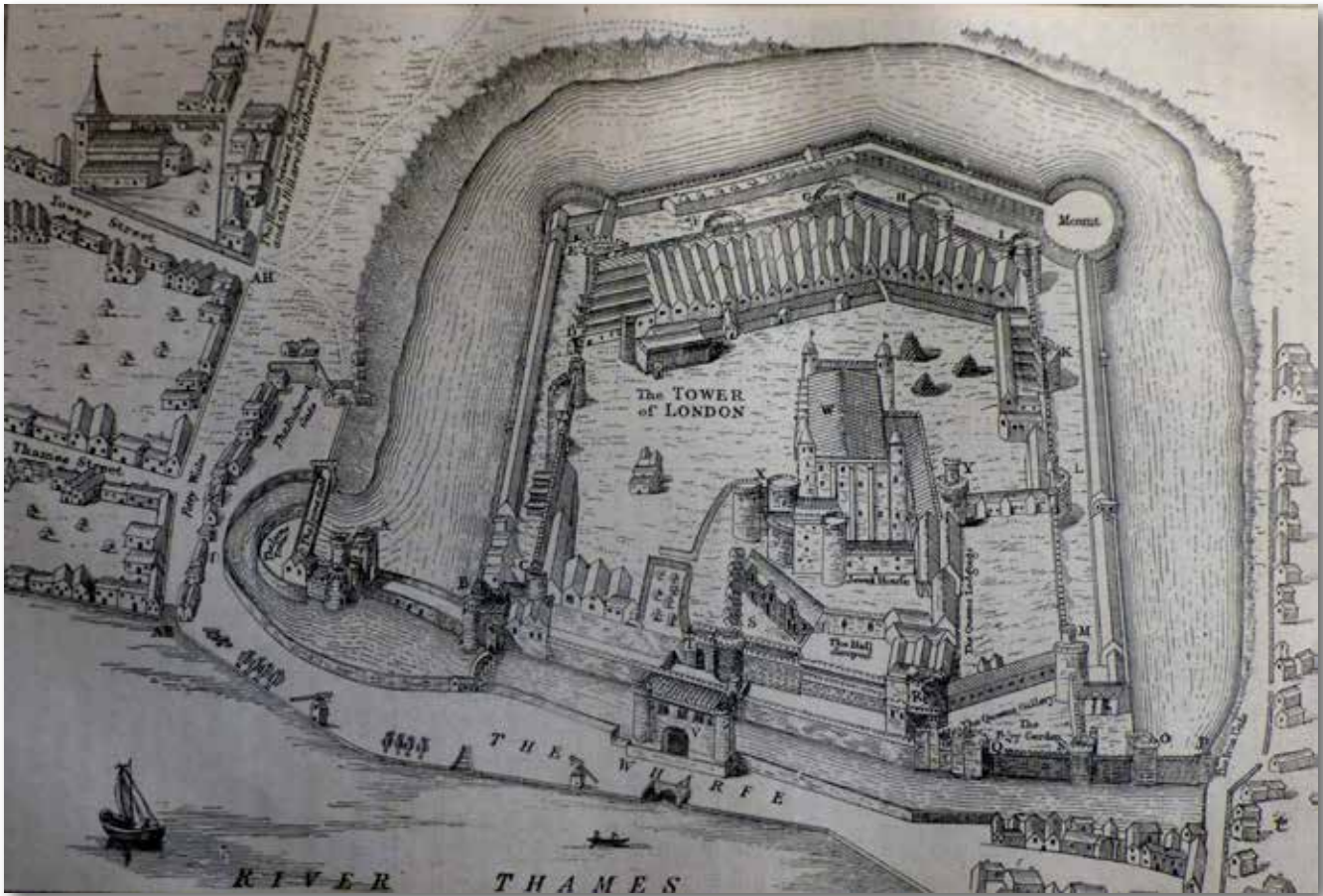




A fanciful depiction of Anne Boleyn (with her daughter Elizabeth) in the Tower of London
by Gustaf Wappers, 1838.



I. L.
ANNA BULLEYN, Gemalinne van HENDRIK. DE VIII.
Koning van Engeland. binnen Londen onthalst.



The Tower of London in 1597.

FOLLOWING IN ANNE'S FOOTSTEPS

We can trace Anne Boleyn's very footsteps when visiting the Tower of London today. The Thames river-stairs upon which Anne made her way onto Tower Wharf at her coronation and later at her imprisonment, no longer exist, but the present day Queen's Stairs are more or less in the same location.

By these steps, one can see the Byward Tower straight ahead. In times past, this entrance (also known as the Court Gate, Tower Gate, or simply as 'the postern by the water side') was used by royalty and dignitaries to enter the fortress. As shown in the Elizabethan survey map of 1597, at the time, one had to pass through a small guardhouse and then onto a wooden drawbridge to reach the Byward Tower. The guardhouse and bridge are long gone, and access is now via a stone bridge over the now dry moat. However, it is closed to the public. Tourists must be admitted by the ticket booths to the west, where the Lion Tower (the former menagerie) was.

Entry to the inner ward of the Tower is by what is now called 'Water Lane.' Anne Boleyn, emerging from the Byward Tower, would have processed down this long wide corridor towards the Bloody Tower (then known as the Garden Tower, named after the adjacent Lieutenant's private garden) on her left. After passing under the portcullis gate of the Bloody Tower, Anne would have taken the walkway going up towards the White Tower. On her right were rows of cottages (presumably housing for those working in the Tower; many staff still reside within today). At the top of the incline, to the right, was the Cold Harbour Gate, twin towers which gave way to the innermost ward. They, like the cottage houses, no longer stand, but one can still see the rubble (near the southwest corner of the White Tower) marking where the two towers once were.

Unfortunately, our journey with Anne Boleyn comes to a temporary halt here. The royal lodgings beyond Cold Harbour Gate no longer exist; the palace area now just an expanse of lawn. However,

FEATURE SECTION: ANNE BOLEYN



The present day glass memorial to those executed upon Tower Green. Photo ©2013 Tim Ridgway

old plans of the Tower give us an impression of what Anne's accommodations were like. They were a cluster of buildings stretching from the southeast corner of the White Tower (where the Medieval

Wardrobe Tower was; the remains of which can still be seen) down to the Lanthorn Tower (now a Victorian reconstruction). We can only imagine how grand and luxurious the apartments were

FEATURE SECTION: ANNE BOLEYN

inside. But as the Tower of London ceased to be a royal residence by the late 17th century, the palace fell into disrepair and decay. It was eventually demolished. Even the Jewel House (by the south face of the White Tower) that Anne had visited in 1532 is gone, as is the Great Hall where she was tried.

Contrary to popular belief, Anne Boleyn never stayed in the present day Queen's House by the south-western section of Tower Green. These lodgings were assigned to the Lieutenant of the Tower, and were actually under renovation (till 1540) when Anne was made Queen.

Although the spot where Anne was executed draws crowds of visitors today, it is actually not where she died. The area, once paved and chained off, and now marked by a memorial made of glass, was only designated as the place of execution in Victorian times. Why this particular spot was chosen is unclear, perhaps it was a picturesque setting with the Chapel of St. Peter Ad Vincula in the background. Fitting, as many victims (including Anne and her brother Lord Rochford) were buried within. However, contemporary reports indicate that Anne's scaffold site was actually further off – 'by the great White Tower'. This suggests that it was set up next to the north wall of the great central keep. Likewise, the scaffold made for Lady Jane

Grey in February 1554 was described as being 'upon the Green over against the White Tower'.

Despite the legends that Anne's body was secretly taken away for burial elsewhere, we can be confident that her remains actually lie inside the Chapel of St. Peter's. In 1876, bones buried in the vicinity of the choir were unearthed during repairs. A skeleton, found before the high altar, was identified as Anne's, though presently, we cannot be absolutely certain it was actually hers. The bones, and other uncovered sets, were subsequently reinterred, and the floor, laid in marble, was decorated with the coats-of-arms of those known to have been buried there. Since then, St. Peter's has been a place of pilgrimage. Even today, flowers are placed upon Anne's memorial.

Just outside the chapel are the unmarked graves of the Queen's alleged lovers. Since Medieval times, the lawn surrounding St. Peter's was used as a burial ground. Francis Weston and Henry Norris are together in a single plot, while William Brereton and Mark Smeaton share another. Where they met their end is a short stroll to Tower Hill. Where the scaffold stood is now squared off with commemorative plaques placed around, serving as a place of contemplation

ROLAND HUI.

Roland Hui holds a degree in Art History, and is a Tudor enthusiast. His blog *Tudor Faces* is at: <http://tudorfaces.blogspot.ca/>

Roland's other passion is for miniature painting.

His Tudor lockets are available at The Anne Boleyn Files: <http://www.theanneboleynfiles.com/products-page/locket-miniatures/>





Tudor Life

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~IN JUNE'S~ TUDOR LIFE MAGAZINE

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LISSA BRYAN

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ADRIENNE DILLARD

Catherine Carey

NATALIE GRUENINGER

Katherine of Aragon and Spain

NANCY BILYEAU

The Throckmortons

GEOFF RIDGWAY

Haddon Hall

AND OUR REGULARS

Melanie on Art
Gareth on History
Beth's Tudor Tidbits
Tudor Feast Days
On this Day in Tudor History
Tudor Themed Puzzle Page



DON'T MISS
THIS MONTH'S GIANT
GIVE-AWAY & EXPERT TALK!