# LONDON

A PICTORIAL CELEBRATION Sketchbook

famous



# A PICTORIAL CELEBRATION Sketchlook

Jim Watson





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Harley Street doorway

Front cover illustration: Tower Bridge and the City from the Design Museum.
Front endpaper: Trafalgar Square from the London Eye.
Back endpaper: South Bank and The City from the London Eye.

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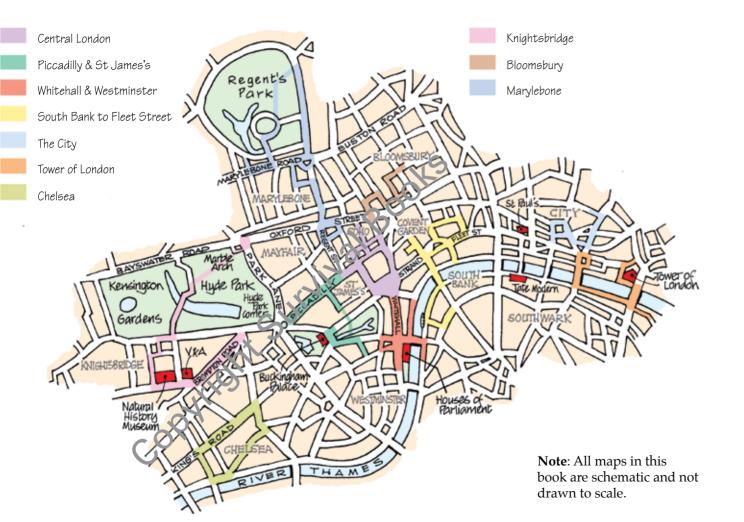
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## INTRODUCTION

London is one of the world's great cities, steeped in two thousand years of history and rich in culture, architecture and agreeable surprises – often just around the corner.

It was a privilege for me to spend summer days walking the routes in this book, enjoying the famous sights while bursting with pride at my capital city. The winter months were spent trying to capture the scenes in line and watercolour. Notes accompanying the illustrations provide some historical background and useful facts and figures.

The suggested walks take in all the famous landmarks which are relatively close to each other, so none of the routes exceed four miles in length. They begin and end at underground stations, the circular walks at the same station.

There are of course many ways to get around London but I find the tube most convenient. It's also exciting to emerge from the underground not sure what you're about to see. You emerge, blinking at the sunlight, and are swept along in a great swell of humanity to perhaps the first sight of an iconic scene you may have previously seen only in a photograph. The scale can be unexpected and oddly moving, the Albert Memorial for example. Or

the unexpected intimacy of the great financial edifices gathered around that tiny square in front of the Bank of England. The pleasures of London are many and varied but few are such good value for money as just looking.

You could easily complete all the walks in a week of good weather – believe me, it does happen – anything is possible in London! You'll never be far from a cafe or a pub and one of the delights of the city is to linger awhile and watch the world go by. You'll certainly see people from most parts of the globe.

I do hope you enjoy this book and the scenes that inspired it, and that they give you as much pleasure as they always give me whenever I visit ol' London town.



Shop sign, Bloomsbury

### CENTRAL LONDON

The city centre can be loosely defined as the area bordered by Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus and Cambridge Circus. Shaftsbury Avenue – theatreland's main artery – and Charing Cross road – noted for bookshops – are usually busy but Trafalgar and Leicester Squares are both good places to walk around, seeing the sights and soaking up the lively atmosphere. Charing Cross is considered to be the centre of London, from where all distances are measured.



#### TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Conceived by John Nash and mostly constructed during the 1830s, Trafalgar Square is London's main venue for rallies, outdoor public meetings and celebrations. The square was once famous for its feral pigeons and feeding them was an essential part of the London experience, but with modern 'Health and Safety' concerns, the vigeons – a flock of around 35,000 – were successfully banished using a variety of deterrents including a ban on feeding and the introduction of trained falcons. The result is a much cleaner and more pleasant area to enjoy.

'people Londoners would know'.

Fourth plinth

Sir Charles James Napier statue (1855). When Mayor of

London, Ken Livingstone expressed a desire to see the two

statues of the generals in the square replaced by ones of

National Gallery Designed in Neo-Classical style by William Wilkins and built in 1833-7. Houses a collection of over 2,300 Western European paintings from the 13th century Early Renaissance to the 19th century Impressionists.

Coliseum Theatre

18409

Nelson's Column dominates the square and commemorates Admiral Lord Nelson, Britain's most famous sea lord who died heroically during his victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Dating from 1843, the 151ft (46m) high column of Dartmoor granite is guarded by Edward Landseer's four bronze lions – much-loved, especially by climbing children – which were added 25 years later, due it is said to the artist's difficulty in creating a satisfactory lion likeness. It was worth the vant

Four bronze panels Cast from captured French guns, depicting Nelson's four great victories.

Trafalgar Square from the south

Northumberland Avenue

Fountains designed by Edward Lutyens
George IV in 1939 statue

St Martin-in-the-Fields

South Africa House Built in the

hotel. Was a target for protests

1930s on the site of a derelict

against racial segregation

during the 1980s, In 2001.

Nelson Mendela appeared on

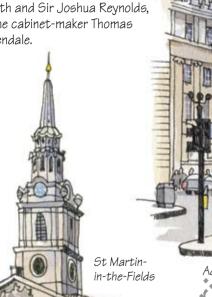
anniversary of the end of the

Apartheid system.

the balcony to mark the seventh

The Strand

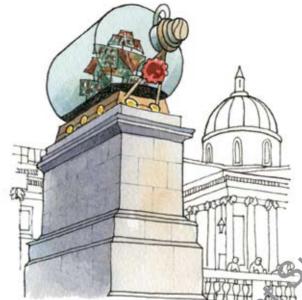
The mistress of Charles II, Nell Gwynne, is buried at St Martin's, along with the artists William Hogarth and Sir Joshua Reynolds, and the cabinet-maker Thomas Chippendale.



Ring Edward VII commissioned Admiralty Arch in memory of his mother, Queen Victoria. Completed in 1912, it's yet another office block – now used by the government – but it effectively cuts off busy Trafalgar Square from the more courtly part of London. Traffic can only use the two outer arches, the central one being reserved for royal processions.

Latin inscription 'In the tenth year of King Edward VII, to Queen Victoria, from her most grateful citizens, 1910'.

St Martin-in-the-Fields dates to 1726, designed by James Gibbs on the site of an 11th century church. With its rectangular design, portico and baroque steeple, it inspired the design of many colonial churches in America.



Horatio Nelson (1758-1805) was born in Norfolk, England to a clerical family, the sixth of eleven children. He rose rapidly through the Royal Navy ranks and became famous for his exploits during the Napoleanic Wars, losing both his right arm and one of his eyes.

He led a controversial private life, beginning a notorious affair with Emma, Lady Hamilton, while both were marriea, which continued until his death.

His misfortune with physical injuries continued in the afterlife when his statue was struck by lightning in the 1880s, damaging the left arm. It was repaired in a £420,000 rectoration of the column in 2006.



of Nelson, designed by E.H. Baily, faces south looking towards the Admiralty and Portsmouth where Nelson's & the Royal Navy Flagship HMS Victory is docked. The Mall is on his right flank, where Nelson's ships are represented on the top of each flagpole.

At the south-east side of the square stands a former police box (left), once the smallest in Britain. It was stone-built to last in 1826 and had a phone line installed in 1926, but is no longer in use.

The 18ft (5.5m) high sandstone statue

The fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square was intended for an equestrian statue of William IV but that was cancelled when the money couldn't be raised, aux in part to the king's unpopularity. It's now used to achieve a series of temporary – and often controversial – works of contemporary art.

Nelson's Ship in a Bottle by Yinka Shonibare occupied the site from May 2010. With sails painted with the artist's trademark patterns, the replica of Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory, was constructed in a perspex bottle large enough for assemblers to work inside.