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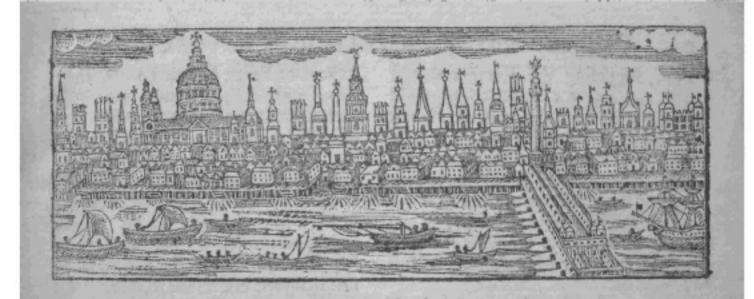
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# GLIMPSES OF LONDON'S PAST



# ITEMS ON DISPLAY

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# GLIMPSES OF LONDON'S PAST

London's face has changed many times: from a walled settlement in Roman times, a centre of bustling activity in the Elizabethan period, a Regency city reflecting parts old and new, to a spreading metropolis in the modern era. In 1500, the City's population was estimated at 50,000; in 1603, 140,000 lived within and without the ancient walls, with some 40,000 in its suburbs; in 1801, the population for Inner London and the Outer Boroughs was just over 1 million; in 2001, it stood at 7.1 million. However; no matter what the numbers are, London has always been the envy of foreigners and the pride of Londoners. It has always been – and is – the place to go to.

The roads, the bridges, the buildings such as St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, and the Thames, the life-blood of London's development, combine with the City's rich past, including those well-known events and associations with Kings, Queens, and famous and not so famous other folk, to make it what it is today. Indeed, London is history living.

This exhibition offers a glimpse of London's past through a wide selection of books and manuscripts chosen from within Special Collections. Much of the materials are from Esmond de Beer's fine collection of 16th to 18th century books; one is from the Medical Library, University of Otago. It is by no means a comprehensive account.

And on this great City it is fitting that the great Dr Johnson should have the last word:

When a man is tired of London he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford.' (Johnson, 1777).

# ITEMS ON DISPLAY

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