
“This special edition salutes Londoners and their shared history, who throughout the city’s complex past and shifting present, have kept their humour, unique character, and bulldog spirit.” — Canary Wharf, London

London calling

A photographic journey through the history of this epic city

Samuel Johnson famously said that, “when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.” London’s remarkable history, architecture, landmarks, streets, style, cool, swagger, and stalwart residents are pictured in hundreds of compelling photographs sourced from a wide array of archives around the world. London is a vast sprawling metropolis, constantly evolving and growing, yet throughout its complex past and shifting present, the humour, unique character, and bulldog spirit of the people have stayed constant. This book salutes all those Londoners, their city, and its history.

In addition to the wealth of images included, many previously unpublished, London’s history is told through hundreds of quotations, lively essays, and references from key movies, books, and records.

From Victorian London to the Swinging 60s; from the Battle of Britain to Punk; from the Festival of Britain to the 2012 Olympics; from the foggy cobbled streets to the architectural masterpieces of the Millennium celebrations; from rough pubs to private drinking clubs; from Royal Weddings to raves, from the charm of the East End to the wonders of Westminster; from Chelsea girls to Hoxton hipsters; from the power to glory: in page after page of stunning photographs, reproduced big and bold like the city itself, London at last gets the photographic tribute it deserves.

Art Edition No. 1–1,000
- Limited to two editions of 500 numbered copies, each with a fine art print on archival paper, signed by Elmar Ludwig
- Print size: 52 x 68 cm (20.3 x 26.8 in.)
- No. 1 500
  Piccadilly Circus, 1960s (page 230-231)
- No. 501–1,000
  Traffic policeman, 1960s (opposite)
- Clamshell and cover designed by Paul Smith
- London. Portrait of a City
  Reuel Golden, 25 x 34 cm (9.8 x 13.3 in.), 552 pp.
  $850 | €600 | £550

Opposite: Policeman by Elmar Ludwig (detail).
South side of St Paul’s Cathedral, mid-60s.


“A dynamic, sumptuous, historically vital book that allows the reader to visit London, past and present, again and again.” — Boston Spirit
London. Portrait of a City: Tailor-made by Paul Smith

“Something every Londoner should own. From glimpses inside Victorian pubs to the chaotic street scenes of the Blitz, and onwards to Banksy’s graffiti murals, it’s a history of the capital in photographs.”
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