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*Richard Tames*

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**Richard Tames : London (Traveller's History of London)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised London (Traveller's History of London):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great FunBy Nina A. SchwartzI loved most of A Traveler's History of London, right through the 18th century. Three-quarters of the way through, the book's breezy cheerful style

evaporated, to be replaced by a mind-numbing list of facts. Possibly the book had to be finished quickly. Still, most of it is great fun, and it tells you where to find representative historical sites all over London. For the traveler, this is priceless. It means you're not stuck with seeing the Changing of the Guard, or other typical tourist stuff. I applaud the idea, and eagerly await the next edition. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Bit Confusing By SPM This book covers all of London history from the Romans to the Dockland development in 200 pages. So it isn't surprising that it was sometimes hard to follow. Matters were not helped by the fact that the author chose a hybrid theme/chronological narrative structure which succeeded in completely confusing me on when certain things occurred. I would have liked more stories of renowned events and people. But the sections at the end on specific locations like the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey were quite interesting.

A Traveller's History of London gives a full and comprehensive historical background to the capital's past and covers the period from London's first beginnings, right up to the present day from Londinium and Lundenwic to Docklands' development. It reveals the city's hidden treasures and forgotten places and guides the reader to the sights and sites that can still be seen and enjoyed.

From Library Journal From the historical to the hip, these two travel guides offer very different approaches to travel in this much-visited city. In his first travel book, Hammond skips about London, from the East End to Notting Hill Gate, sneering at popular tourist attractions, quoting from better and more interesting travel guides, and pointing out the former haunts of every British pop star ever known. Though mildly amusing, Hammond's hip references remain obscure for the average American, and his humor is too often merely mean-spirited. (Bill Bryson does this sort of thing so much better in *Notes from a Small Island*, LJ 4/1/96.) Tames (author of the Japan volume in the "Traveller's History" series) has written a pleasant but very brief history of London, of questionable value to travelers. Primarily a chronological review of aspects of London's history (e.g., livery companies, the growth of retailing, religion, and riots), the book pays an inordinate amount of attention to transportation and includes a very short section describing a few major tourist sites. Neither book offers any useful information regarding opening times, getting around the city, or finding restaurants or accommodations, and the maps in Hammond's book are crude. Any number of books on London are superior to these two. Libraries are advised to buy an additional (or first) copy of Michael Leapman's *Eyewitness London* (DK, 1993) instead. Linda M. Kaufmann, Massachusetts Coll. of Liberal Arts Lib., North Adams Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. ... recommended for both would-be visitors and armchair travellers alike: It provides a historical background to London and condenses 2000 years of history into a lively, readable format which will prove particularly inviting for history buffs who want to have the book in hand while visiting parks, museums and historical sites around London. The Midwest Book -- The Herald