

- Ralph Agas** (c. 1540-1621) was a land surveyor and cartographer. He was born at Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, in about 1540, and lived there throughout his life, although he travelled regularly to London. He began to practise as a surveyor in about 1566, and has been described as 'one of the leaders of the emerging body of skilled land surveyors'. See *CSGJ* 19 154. Agas is principally remembered for *Oxonia Antiqua Restaurata*, a detailed plan – really a 'bird's-eye view' – of Oxford. It was drawn in 1578 and engraved and printed in 1588: a copy is held in the Bodleian Library, bequeathed by Richard Rawlinson. The plan was re-engraved by Robert Whittlesey in 1728, at the expense of the University, but this plate was destroyed in the fire at Nichol's printing-works in 1808. *Civitas Londinum* is a bird's-eye view of London first printed from woodblocks in about 1561. Widely known as the 'Agas map', from a spurious attribution to surveyor Ralph Agas, the map offers a richly detailed view both of the buildings and streets of the city and of its environment. No copies survive from 1561, but a modified version was printed in 1633.

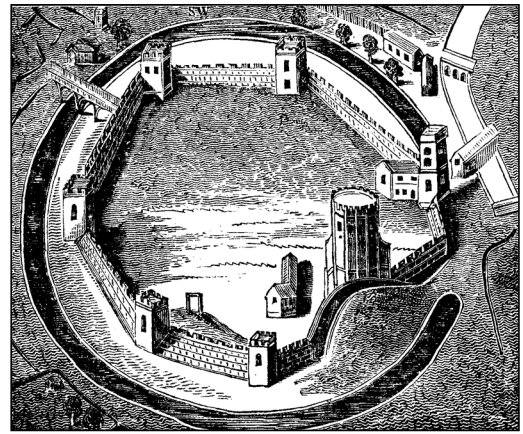


Fig. 30. Detail of the castle from a bird's-eye view of the Oxford originally drawn by Agas and is dated to 1578. This is a copied version engraved by W. Williams in 1732.

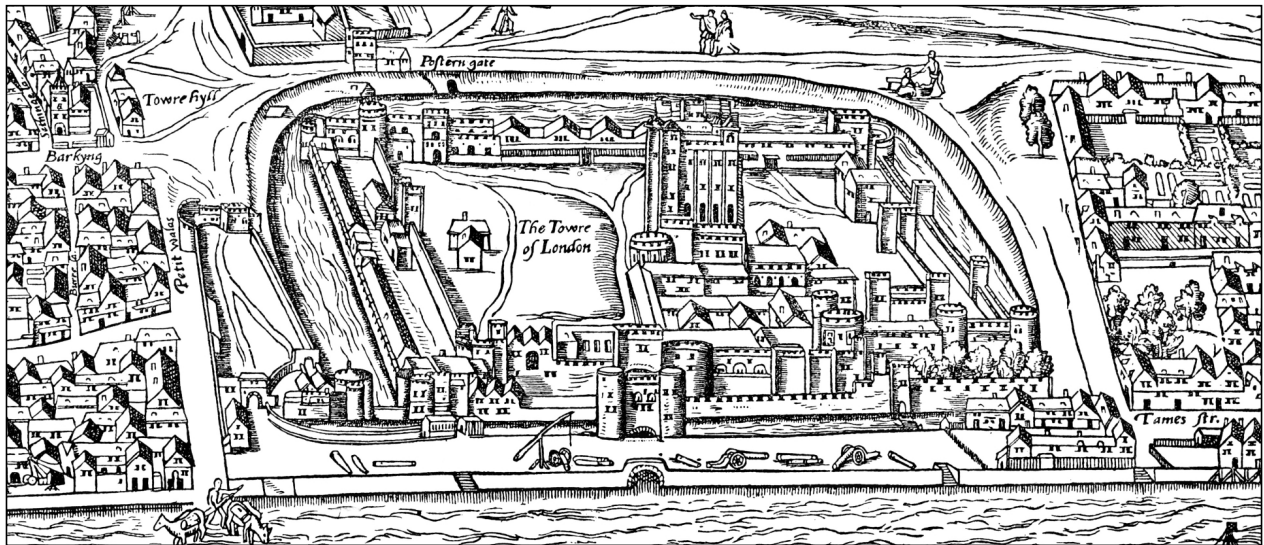


Fig. 31. Tower of London extracted from the heavily cropped 'Agas map' c. 1561. This version is the one printed in 1633. From the Pepysian Collection at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

- Georg Braun** (1541-1622) and **Frans Hogenberg** (1535-1590). Their first volume of the *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* was published in Cologne. It is an opulent atlas of the world's great cities. The sixth and final volume appeared in 1617. This great city atlas, edited by Georg Braun and largely engraved by Frans Hogenberg, eventually contained 546 prospects, bird's-eye views and map-views of cities from all over the world. They were not initially coloured.

Braun, a cleric of Cologne, was the principal editor of the work, and was greatly assisted in his project by the close and continuing interest of Abraham Ortelius (1527- 98), whose *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* of 1570 was, as a systematic and comprehensive collection of maps of uniform style, the first true atlas. The *Civitates* was intended as a companion for the *Theatrum*, as indicated by the similarity in their titles and by contemporary references regarding the complementary nature of the two works. Nevertheless, the *Civitates* was designed to be more popular in approach, no doubt because the novelty of a collection of city plans and views represented a more hazardous commercial undertaking than a world atlas, for which there had been a number of successful precedents.

Examples (of city bird's eye views) from Britain include the following: London Vol I (1572), Cambridge Vol II (1575), Oxford Vol II (1575), Windsor 1575; Bristol, Chester, Canterbury, Edinburgh, Norwich all 1581 (Vol III). Others from Vol VI (Richmond, York, Shrewsbury, all from 1617 are contained in the *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* but are also found in Speed's 1617 maps.

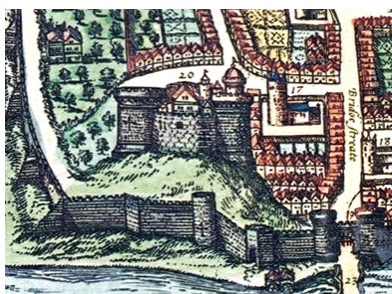


Fig. 32. Chester castle, 1581



Fig. 33. Norwich castle, 1581

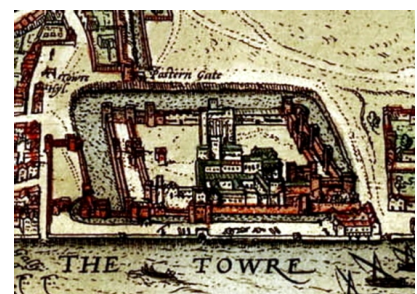


Fig. 34. Tower of London, 1572