Title: ***”The Tower Ravens-Fiction And Reality”***

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**THESIS**

The History of the Tower of London encompasses the story of the magnificent castle. And the lives of the men and the women who were killed and imprisoned in this great fortress. The legends and myths surrounding this great London castle include as well the legend of the Ravens. The History of the Tower of London spans across more than one thousand years and the reigns of countless Kings and Queens. The aim of my work is to create a fully comprehensive Timeline to guide you through the key events concerning the Tower Ravens. Working on the project I’ve found the answers to the following questions: Why have the Tower ravens been so popular for many centuries? How did the legend begin?

The work starts with brief information about the Tower of London. Its history, legends and famous prisoners help to reveal the inner atmosphere of the castle.

The second part of the work deals with the myths and legends regarding ravens. Ravens have a place in the myths and legends of many ancient people. They are symbols of the underworld. The croaking of a raven is believed to represent the speech of the dead! The raven is also mentioned in Celtic myths and legends and has been associated with raven goddess of Battle and Strife.

We trace the appearance of the ravens in the Tower of London. According to legend, ravens have lived on the White Hill (whereon stands the Tower of London) since King Brans head was buried there, facing France, to protect England against invasion. Ravens gathered in great numbers at his burial place and have ever after refused to leave his side. Another version says that the Welsh word for Raven is Bran. This ancient King of the Dark Ages was killed in a battle and requested that his head was buried, as a talisman against invasion where The Tower of London now stands. To this day ravens are accepted as highly important and necessary occupants of the Tower of London. Legend has it that should the ravens ever leave the Tower of London the White Tower will crumble and a great disaster shall befall England.

Moreover, we give here three versions of the legend dealing with the Ravens in the Tower of London and King Charles II. One of them even presents the explanation of the establishment of Greenwich Observatory.

Curious Raven Facts is the third part of the project. These fact add to the story of the ravens. Here is one of them: There are always at least 6 ravens at the Tower. The first ones probably built their nests here because they liked the old stone houses and walls. There is a story that they bring good luck to Britain, if they stay at the Tower. That's why they get "paid" meat and biscuits every day. But their wings are cut so that they can't fly away. They are not very friendly. Once one of them bit a German Minister.

The Tower Ravens Today... observes a number of peculiar information about raven current living beginning with their daily diet and ending with their character and preferences.

Raven Master is a very important person in the life of the Tower Ravens. It should be stressed that ravens are still viewed as military personnel, under the command of the Raven Master, and can be dismissed for ‘unbecoming conduct’, just like regular soldiers. The post of Raven Master only goes back about 40 years. Before that, they were called Yeoman Quartermaster. There’s been ravens here as long as anyone can remember, so someone’s been looking after them all that time, so you could say it goes back to when the ravens first got here. Derek Coyle has been looking after Britain’s most important birds for the last 22 years. In this project work we even give the information about Raven Master’s Day and one of his most famous attribute Raven Master’s Staff.

All in all we try to present the practical part of the project work with the help of the Time Line Programme “Chrono Liner 1.0”. While working with it we collect a brilliant collection of audio and video files.