

TOWER OF JEAN SANS PEUR

20, rue Etienne Marcel. 75002 Paris.

Practical information...

The tower is organised by the association the "Amis de la

Tour Jean Sans Peur".
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Curator : Rémi Rivière

Public opening: 9th October, 1999.

1-Principal ideas

* This illustrious building, classed an Historical Monument 115 years ago, but never opened to the public, finally unveils its secrets, and in particular:

- its spiral staircase, almost certainly inspired from the grand staircase of Charles V's Louvre,
- the staircase's magnificent vault with its plant decoration (oak, hop and hawthorn), unique in France,
- the room known as the " bedchamber of Jean sans Peur ", supposed refuge in case of trouble...

* The museographical visit places the tower in the context of its time (daily life in a ducal residence, a glimpse at mediaeval construction etc).

* In evoking existing mediaeval buildings in the Capital, a visit of civil and military mediaeval Paris is roughly outlined.

2- Opening hours

From Wednesday to Sunday. 1,30pm - 6pm.

3- Entrance fees

- Full fee: 5 €
Reduced fee: 3 € (children and students, groups of more than 12 persons)
Free: Children under 7, lecturer-guides, students of history, art history and archaeology

4- Access

- Parking: " les Halles - nord "
Métros: " Etienne Marcel " or " Les Halles " (" Rambuteau " exit)
Bus: 29.

5- Hiring the rooms (quote on request)

Every evening, except Monday and Thursday, from 8pm onwards, the ground floor of the tower and the front garden are available for hire for cocktails, dinners, meetings etc. Up to 80 people standing or 50 seated. Guided tours, mediaeval music jugglers, etc... can be organized to liven your event.

6- Project partners

- Contracting Authority The Mairie of the 2nd Arrondissement and the Direction of Cultural Affairs (DAC) of the City of Paris.
Prime Contractor D.A.C. and Patrice Bonseignour (architect dplg)
Museography Rémi Rivière.
Text and Iconography Danièle Alexandre-Bidon; Odette Chapelot; Alberto Garin; Rémi Rivière.
Iconographic Sources Bibliothèque nationale de France; Musée Carnavalet; Didier Goupy.
Graphics Parallèle: Jean-Jacques Guillon, Gilles Février.

on the web : www.tourjeansanspeur.com

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Important Dates

6th May, 1270. Robert d'Artois purchased a house at the northern point of the *St Eustache district*, touching on the Parisian ramparts, constructed by Philippe Auguste in 1190.

1369. Following an alliance between the two families, the hôtel d'Artois became the hôtel de Bourgogne.

The domain grew to take an area demarcated by the rue Saint-Denis, rue Montorgueil, rue Tiquetonne and rue Mauconseil.

Whilst Paris found itself enclosed within new walls, the old ramparts, which were left standing, crossed the dukes' domain lengthwise.

23rd November, 1407. Jean sans Peur, Duke of Burgundy, had his cousin Louis d'Orleans, King Charles VI's brother, assassinated.

This murder was to trigger off a terrible civil war between the Armagnacs, name given to the partisans of the Orleans family, and the Burgundians, Duke Jean's allies.

9th February 1409 - 15th May, 1411. Jean sans Peur, having taken power, undertook renovations on his Parisian residence and in particular constructed a new building, including a tall and magnificent stair tower: the tower known as that of « Jean sans Peur ».

10th September, 1419. Jean sans Peur in turn was assassinated by the Armagnacs, on the Montereau Bridge, whilst the dauphin, the future King Charles VII looked on.

1477. On the death of « Charles the Rash », Jean sans Peur's grandson, the Burgundian dukes' property was confiscated.

The Hôtel de Bourgogne and its tower were left abandoned.

1543. The residence was sold in two separate lots, separated by the newly created rue Française.

The eastern part, where the tower was located, was sold to Diego Mandosa and bore the name of the hôtel de Mandosse for a long time.

Only the western wing continued to be called the Hôtel de Bourgogne which was also sold and subsequently transformed into a famous theatre, birthplace of the Comédie Française, lasting until the 19th century.

17th; and 18th centuries. During this period the Hôtel de Mandosse changed proprietors several times. Firstly, one of Paris' two charitable shops took up premises, then a well known cabaret...

Around 1750, the tower was inhabited and its last floor renovated.

1782 - 1868. The ironmonger Sterlin followed by the locksmith Bricard lodged families, shops and warehouses.

1866 - 1868. The creation of the rue Etienne Marcel rendered the tower, last vestige of the Hôtel, visible from the street. Historians rediscovered it.

1884. Bought by the City of Paris, the tower was classed an Historical Monument.

1893. Close to ruin, the tower was reinforced by the City architect Gion.

1991 - 1992. The tower was restored by Pierre Prunet Head Architect of Historical Monuments.

1999. 115 years after being classed, the public can finally visit the tower.