

Truffles from the Invisible Library.

There is more to our bookstock than meets the eye. Besides the volumes on our open shelves, we also maintain a store of older titles in the basement of Twickenham Library. They may no longer be so physically attractive, but they will have proved their worth over the years. Often they were famous, infamous, or outrageously popular when new, and they have been sought by readers ever since. Or they may perhaps be the only book on their subject. And some will be of local interest. Whatever the reason for their enduring usefulness, we endeavour to retain these titles for some time (often many years) after the peak of their popularity has passed.

You will find them all listed on our catalogue, but their home is unfortunately not suitable for public access and browsing. Therefore each month we will present on these pages a small selection of titles. They may have some current resonance, or simply a quirky appeal which may tickle your fancy.

Should you wish to borrow any of them, please enquire at your usual library.

So, in no particular order, we present:

David BAKER *The History of Manned Spaceflight.* (1981)

It is 40 years since the first moon landing. Was it a first step into a journey or up a blind alley? Whatever your reaction, this big illustrated book reveals the scope of the ambition in both human and engineering terms which took us to the moon.

Eva CRANE (editor) *Honey: a comprehensive survey.* (1975)

Before all the bees die, revel in the arcana of honey, its production, history, economics and usage around the world. Sweet!

Mark TWAIN *Letters From the Earth* (1962)

Late selection of previously unpublished pieces by the humourist on a variety of aspects of the human condition.

Philip WARNER *The Harlequins: 125 years of rugby football* (1991)

Story of Twickenham's own club, its triumphs and disasters since its founding in 1866.

Dan VAN DER VAT *The Grand Scuttle: the sinking of the German fleet at Scapa Flow in 1919.* (1977)

Examines what may have lain behind the decision of the admiral in charge to order the 74 warships, penned up for the seven months since the Armistice, to sink themselves.

John ASHTON *A History of the English Lotteries.* (1893)

The lotteries organised from 1569 up to the time of this book's writing were many and various, and usually held for a specific purpose. For example the founding of the British Museum was funded thus. The book contains reproductions of advertising for these lotteries, and also contemporary illustrations showing how they were viewed at the time.

Noel PERRIN *Dr Bowdler's Legacy* (1969)

The entertaining story of the attempts down the centuries to clean up or improve in other ways books of all kinds, including the Bible and Shakespeare. What motivated the purifiers, and what in fact did they achieve? Do such things still go on, and have the targets changed?

Michael ASPEL *Polly Wants a Zebra* (1974)

The TV presenter's memoir of his childhood, wartime evacuation, and early career in acting on radio and television. Did the lad make good?

Freya STARK *Rome on the Euphrates* (1966)

Brings to life the story of centuries of conflict along the eastern border of the Roman Empire, examining the personalities and politics of the time. Why did Rome eventually fail to hold the line, and how have the consequences played out down the years?

Francesca GREENOAK *God's Acre: the flowers and animals of the parish churchyard.* (1985)

Over time our 20,000 churchyards have become wildlife havens, offering seclusion and shelter to many rare plants, animals and birds. This celebration of these overlooked gems is illustrated with charming watercolours by Clare Roberts.