

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:

Lawrence M. WOODS. *British Gentlemen in the Wild West: the era of the intensely English cowboy.* (1989)

Cowboys in all senses of the word, scions of the aristocracy in the late 19th century saw huge fortunes to be made grazing vast herds on the unsettled lands of the American West. The collision between their dreams and reality unfolds in a tale of greed, scandal and mutual incomprehension.

William A. SHERDEN *The Fortune Sellers: the big business of buying and selling predictions.* (1998)

Casts a piercing eye on the booming business of prediction, from technology forecasters and investment advisers (stick pin here) to weather forecasters.

Philip LONGWORTH *The Unending Vigil: a history of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 1917 - 1967.* (1967)

Describes the origins and works of the body charged with commemoration of our dead service men and women.

Valentine VOX *I Can See Your Lips Moving: the history and art of ventriloquism.* (1981)

From a mystic divinatory art for interrogating the dead, to a form of popular entertainment.

John DYSON *Business In Great Waters: the story of British fishermen.* (1977)

Once we had a huge fishing fleet. This is the story of where it came from, what it was like to work on it, and where it went to.

Fritz SPIEGL *Sicknotes.* (1996)

Amusing tour of medical terminology, acronyms and abbreviations, their origins, use and misuse.

Rebecca WEST *1900.* (1982)

Writer and novelist revisits the events, people and trends of the year in which she was 8 in this highly illustrated volume.

Nancy MITFORD *The Sun King.* (1966)

Lavishly illustrated account of the life and times of Louis XIV of France and of his court at Versailles.

Fred BASNETT *Travels of a Capitalist Lackey.* (1965)

At the height of the Cold War the author journeyed by car from Finland to Georgia and experienced the Soviet system and all its contradictions as an outsider under constant suspicion.

HARRODS *A Selection From Harrods General Catalogue, 1929.* (1985)

View the must-have goods of yesteryear - and marvel at the prices.