

## BOOKS

### Real reads via your smartphone

By SIMON HARDEMAN

The moment I downloaded the new London Bookshop Map app it told me there was a bookshop I'd never heard of actually on the platform of my nearest railway station.

Impressed and intrigued, I asked it to find a specialist in radical politics near my flat, and up popped a map showing Freedom, which is

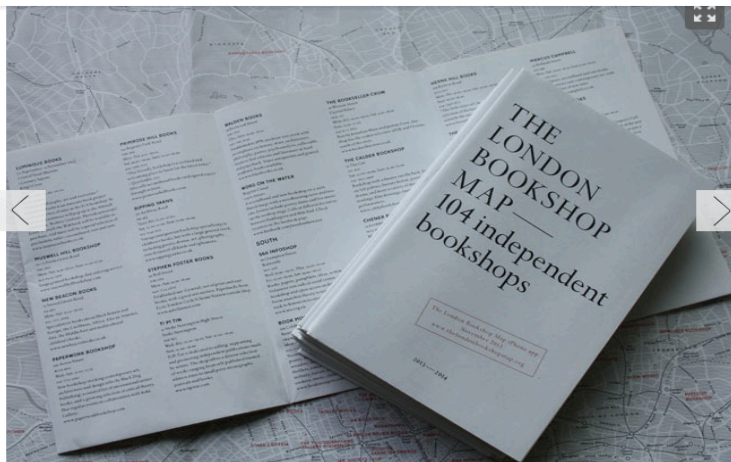
described as Britain's biggest anarchist bookshop. In fact the app offers a list of specialisms from philosophy to politics, poetry to photography, magic to Middle Eastern and comics to cookery, and is the brainchild of founder Louise O'Hare, who has been producing paper maps for two years.

"It has been a labour of love," she tells me. "I started it because I wanted one myself and there wasn't anything like it." The electronic version came about because, although there were shopping apps, there was "nothing like this for bookshops". She says it now lists more than 100 shops stocking idiosyncratic choices of books. You can take it as read.

[www.thelondonbookshopmap.org](http://www.thelondonbookshopmap.org)

# BAZAAR

December 2013



THE JOYCEAN SOCIETY

Independent bookshop map, free (donations gratefully received), [The London Bookshop Map](http://The London Bookshop Map)

Available from 2 December as a smartphone and tablet app



POPULAR GAL

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# MONOCLE

Issue 72, volume 8, April 2014

**Q&A**  
Louise O'Hare  
Curator, writer  
and editor  
London



Louise O'Hare is a curator and writer, associate editor at *Afterall* and one-third of *Publish and be Damned* – the annual self-publishers fair. Along with curator Kate Phillimore, she is developing *Three Letter Words*, a new critical platform to support publishing artists, and a fair. Most recently she published a map (and an app) of London's independent bookshops.

**Why a map? Were you lost for a good read in London?**  
I had noticed a resurgence of art bookshops in the east – artist-led projects like *Luminous Books*, which at the time was hidden down an alley off Kingsland Road, and *Banner Repeater*, which is on Platform 1 of Hackney Downs train station. Having felt lucky to discover these places I realised they needed to be put on a map. There wasn't one so I made it.

**Did it require intensive research?**  
It was not so methodical a survey – the map is based on personal recommendations and word of mouth. I started with bookshops I knew and then asked those for their sugges-

tions, and it grew from there. If I don't personally know the shop I ask for a second opinion from my excellent group of advisers.

**What do independent bookshops have that chains don't?**  
Quite simply, publications by small independent presses, self-publishing and idiosyncratic choices of books. The term 'independent' is slippery but the spirit I look for is a bookshop that is open to stocking more than market-led selections. Oh, and insightful advice and suggestions from people who work there – independent bookshops are vital platforms for communities and informal education.

**There are some good bookshop names on here – what are your favourites?**  
I am a big fan of *X Marks the Bökship* on Cambridge Heath Road in east London, which stocks a great range of independently produced publications by artists and designers. Also *Marchpane* on Cecil Court – an antiquarian that specialises in *Alice and Wonderland*. And *Ripping Yarns* in Archway is great. Other art bookshops I love are *Artwords*, *Ti Pi Tin* and *Claire de Rouen*... and, of course, *Donlon Books*... and finally there's *Housmans*, London's oldest radical bookshop. — RB  
[thelondonbookshopmap.org](http://thelondonbookshopmap.org)

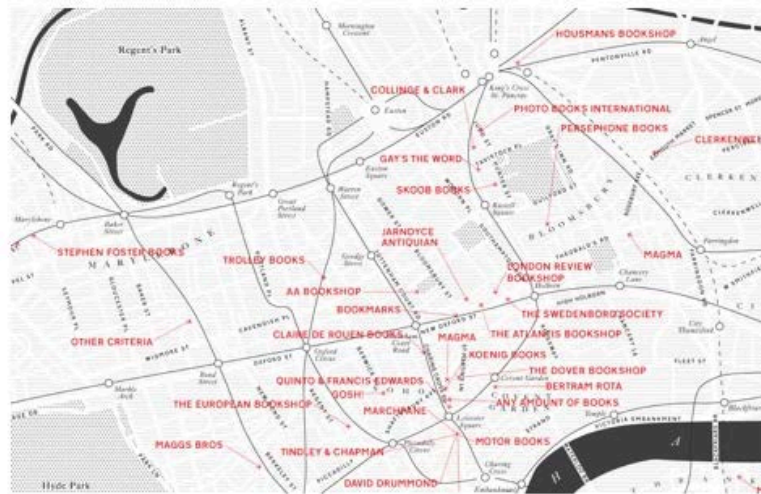


## IDEAS WE LIKE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

### IDEAS WE LIKE: BOOKSHOP MAPS OF CITIES

POSTED BY MACY HALFORD



Lucky London: at the London Art Book Fair last weekend, eighty-seven of London’s independent booksellers came together to launch a bookshop map of their city. The map will be a large-format, foldout map (a detail is shown above); it will be illustrated by the artist [David Batchelor](#); and it will be available for free at each of the shops and at galleries around town. Every six months, it will be updated (to reflect any store openings and, heaven forbid, closings) with art from a new artist. I love the way [the press release](#) for the map describes the beneficialness of indie booksellers in London: they “sustain local interests and communities,” “develop alternative ways for audiences to participate in a range of cultural activities,” and “fill the gaps in the high street.”



Clearly, New York needs a map of its own. Such a map would be bottom-heavy—we have many indie bookshops downtown and in Brooklyn, a few uptown, and, in the Bronx, Staten Island, and my own borough of



Queens, none—but a clever artist could no doubt employ tricks of scale to make it appear more normal (like our subway maps, which swell Manhattan to the dimensions the M.T.A. and history have decided it deserves). Can our stores and our passion for our stores give London a run for its money? Indeed. Last night, I popped out to the [New York Art Book Fair](#), which is on all weekend in Long Island City, and had an amazing time. There were no bookshop maps in site, merely floor after floor of beautifully designed books and broadsides, magazines and artwork—the sort of thing only sold by indies. And an enormous crowd: buying books, drinking beer in the courtyard, and talking about the glories of printed matter.



Luminous Books



We have slightly fallen in love with this app version of the map that lists the 110 independent bookshops in London. Over Christmas it proved a super handy present-finder GSP and we're confident that it's going to be one of our smartphone mainstays of the New Year, as we've already discovered a cool clutch of places we can't believe we didn't already know about (!)

# The Indian EXPRESS

## Chance Encounters

Jaideep Unudurti : New Delhi, Mon Mar 11 2013, 14:39 hrs

### TOP STORIES

16th Lok Sabha pays tribute to Gopinath Munde on day 1, new members to take oath tomorrow

Gopinath Munde's body flown to Parli for last rites

Aid agency puts Herat ops on hold after abduction

Court grants bail to driver of car that hit Gopinath Munde's vehicle

All efforts will be made to fulfill hopes of people, said PM Modi



The manager spying the feverish look in my eye common to all book hounds hands me a huge fold-out map called the London Bookshop Map. I pore over this cartography of independent and

idiosyncratic collections. I recognise some old friends: there is Any Amount of Books on Charing Cross road — much beloved when I was a student, for its one pound paperback section.

Word on the Water catches my eye. It is a book-barge traversing the canals. Of no fixed address, you have to check its Twitter account for the current location, which is Camden Lock. I walk on the towpath and soon spot the barge. The gangway is slippery with ice and I do a

vaudeville routine on it before the genial owner pulls me in. He is Paddy Screech, who shows me around. Schubert wafts across the water. A wood-burning stove spreads its flickering warmth. There is mulled wine that "warms the cockles" as Captain Haddock would say. Paddy explains the mix includes orange juice, cinnamon, nutmeg and "my secret ingredient".

December 05, 2013

Digital bookshops



By MIKA ROSS-SOUTHALL

"A young soldier is being treated very harshly by his commanding lieutenant. He is accompanied the entire time by a naked or nearly-naked woman."

This was a short story I digitally generated before breakfast this morning using The London Bookshop Map App, which has recently been launched. Part of the free iPhone app showcases compressed writing (not unlike our current *TLS* Twitter competition) collected by the artist Dora Garcia for her on-going