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## **The Times Deceas'd. The Rare Book Department of the Times Bookshop in the 1960's [ The Times Deceased ]**

*Timothy D'Arch Smith*

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**Timothy D'Arch Smith : The Times Deceas'd. The Rare Book Department of the Times Bookshop in the 1960's [ The Times Deceased ]** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Times Deceas'd. The Rare Book Department of the Times Bookshop in the 1960's [ The Times Deceased ]:

Hardcover w/ dust jacket. 8vo. 124pp (+ plates). Beige cloth with black titling to spine, index. Black and white frontispiece and 16pp. of photographic illustrations. Edition limited to 500 numbered copies. Under Timothy d'Arch Smith's guidance the rare book department of The Times Bookshop became the place to go for unusual, eccentric, and censured books in 1960s London. In its cluttered shelves, the works of fin de siècle decadents and the poetry of their "Uranian" successors jostled for shelf-space with the literature of the occult and other yet more dubious tomes. Ancient texts on witch-hunting, manuscripts by Frederick Hockley, handsome quartos by that most peculiar Reverend gentleman Montague Summers, could be found alongside exquisite limited editions of works by the then-unmentionable Aleister Crowley. Predictably, d'Arch Smith's office became a required destination for enthusiasts and scholars from all walks of life, with visitors ranging from relatively private individuals like the bibliophile and self-proclaimed practitioner of "the spagyral arts" Gerard Heym and former Crowley disciple and afterwards occult

scholar, Gerald Yorke, to the famous and celebrated, such as the Beatles. The exotic "Countess" Tamara Bourkoun, who headed her own offshoot of the Golden Dawn magical fraternity, provided d'Arch Smith with a personal pathway into Hermetic practice. In "The Times Deceas'd" Timothy d'Arch Smith writes engagingly and affectionately of all these characters, and the many others: customers and colleagues, literary luminaries and lowlifes and, of course, the often shady denizens of the occult fringe. These reminiscences and anecdotes are enlivened by fascinating snippets of bibliophilic and historical detail. As the title suggests, The Times Bookshop is no longer with us, but it lives on, larger than ever, in this delightful memoir. The text of this new edition has been corrected by the author, and includes numerous previously-unpublished illustrations.