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# progressive retreat

*A Bibliographic Timeline  
of Dartington Library  
(1935–2010)*

*amy mcdeath*  
<http://sans.deadi.me/>

*Progressive Retreat* is a collection of 75 books, one published in each year that Dartington Library's collection has existed (1935-2010).

It is, amongst other things, an attempt to comprehend the life of the library. What it has seen, what functions it has performed, who has been a part of it, and what it remembers.

It has been intimately involved with Dartington longer than any student, lecturer, or Elmhirst. It remembers more than anyone, and contains traces and whispers of the uncountable people who have been a part of its life.

*Progressive Retreat* hopes to make some of this accessible, as the library nears its end.

To follow up some of the shadows of the past cast across the collection, refer to the following call numbers:

970: The History of North America

301.412: In Lieu of a Home for Feminism.

822.91: Before Devising.

*The collection was reached after a week of going through every book in the library's online collection by year, selecting books which were then physically located, considered as to how well they fit the collection's intentions, shortlisted, and then composed into the final collection of 75.*

Caught up in these shelves is a memory. A past, implicit in the delicate balance of each category to every other. A more detailed and subtle history, inscribed upon the catalogue, than could ever be described in a single volume.

The way Dartington has conceived itself, and understood the world around it, is found in the configuration of its library.

It can be seen in the proportions of its sections to each other, in the post-70's abundance of feminist literature, the lingering American History section, the shelves upon shelves of play scripts, the rise of business and success handbooks in the 90's, and the increasingly political literature of the 2000's.

As I write, this library is attenuating, being disintegrated, split apart, and scattered, across the large and fast-growing collections of the libraries at Woodlane and Tremough. Art in one, performance in the other. Performance / art.

There may now appear gaps in *Progressive Retreat's* shelves, there may be people upstairs marking the books according to their destination, adding book-plates and RFID tags.

Once the books have been transported, the 'Dartington' tags on their collection records will be removed. At that moment, the collection will cease to exist, and its story will disappear along with it.

MUSIC: THE CHILD AND THE MASTERPIECE.: 1935	1973: IDEA ART
THE MODERN DOWSER: 1936	1974: ADVENTURES O
SEVEN FAMOUS ONE-ACT PLAYS: 1937	1975: ART SINCE PO
FAMILY ALBUM: A VICTORIAN COMEDY WITH MUSIC: 1938	1976: WHEN GOD W
FAMILY REUNION: 1939	1977: WOMEN'S RIG
RESOLUTIONS WHEN I COME TO BE OLD: 1940	1978: RING OUT! A B
THEIR FINEST HOUR: 1941	1979: DARTMOOR, E
A PREFACE TO PARADISE LOST: 1942	1980: INTRODUCTION
EDUCATION FOR A WORLD ADRIFT: 1943	1981: WORKING WIT
BRITISH TIMBERS: 1944	1982: ADVERTISING I
A COCKNEY ON MAIN STREET: 1945	1983: A MESSAGE FR
A WALL TO PAINT ON: 1946	1984: GET THE MESS
CROWD: A STUDY OF THE POPULAR MIND: 1947	1985: BOOK OF THE
WINDMILLS IN ENGLAND: 1948	1986: E-MYTH: WHY
DEATH OF A SALESMAN: 1949	1987: FRENCH FEMIN
DARTMOUTH: A HISTORY OF PORT AND TOWN: 1950	1988: OUTSIDE THE
TWO CHEERS FOR DEMOCRACY: 1951	1989: WOMAN, NATI
OPTICKS: OR A TREATISE OF THE REFLECTIONS: 1952	1990: ANTICLIMAX: A
THE LOST TRADITION IN MUSIC: 1953	1991: HELENE CIXOU
PHOTOGRAPHY: THEORY AND PRACTICE: 1954	1992: OF BRIDLES AN
SPOKEN WORD: A SELECTION FROM TWENTY-FIVE YEARS: 1955	1993: HOLYTHROAT
NUDE: A STUDY OF IDEAL ART: 1956	1994: GENDER OUTL
RADIATION: WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU: 1957	1995: POSTMODERN
ART BY SUBTRACTION: 1958	1996: ARTS AND THE
RECORDER TECHNIQUE: 1959	1997: K FOUNDATIO
A GUIDE TO POPULAR MUSIC: 1960	1998: TABLE LEAKED
IMAGINATION: 1961	1999: HOW WE BECA
MALE AND FEMALE: A STUDY OF THE SEXES: 1962	2000: THE TRUTH AB
CHILDREN OF THE A-BOMB: 1963	2001: CLOSURE: A ST
THE EXCITEMENT OF WRITING: 1964	2002: WEST AND TH
HAPPENINGS: AN ILLUSTRATED ANTHOLOGY: 1965	2003: SOLITARY SEX
THE ENGLISH SPIRIT: 1966	2004: RESEARCH FO
THE ARTS IN A RURAL SOCIETY: 1967	2005: SPYCHIPS: HO
PLAYS FROM BLACK AFRICA: 1968	2006: SHORT HISTO
WHY ARE WE IN VIETNAM: 1969	2007: A TREATISE OF
WHY PRISON?: 1970	2008: I SHOT A MAN
IMAGINATIVE QUALITIES OF ACTUAL THINGS: 1971	2009: FIVE ROOMS
CAN BRITAIN SURVIVE: 1972	2010: FACING THE M