

Press release date: 11th October 2007

How to create an original show case bookcase

When Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen first saw the fabulous faux books made by *The Original Book Works (OBW)*, he was so impressed with their quality that he ordered several panels of faux books for a concealed door, in the library of his newly acquired Cotswold manor house.

With his astute eye for detail, Laurence could see the faux book spines were cleverly designed to faithfully reproduce the appearance of aged leather bound tomes. This was exactly what he was looking for and has now been given pride of place in his Jacobean library.

“One of the most amazing things about moving to the country is finding unusual, quirky, innovative and often eccentric crafts and manufacturers on your doorstep. It was brilliant to bump into *The Original Book Works* – just around the corner.”

“Their faux books were *exactly* what I wanted for the library in our 17th Century manor house,” exclaimed Laurence enthusiastically. “Concealed doors were an important feature in houses of this period, complete with especially composed, witty titles to amuse the family and their visitors.”

The Original Book Works have been successfully manufacturing top quality faux book products by hand, in Cirencester for over 15 years. Individual titles are cold cast in moulds, carefully made from genuine old books to give an exact reproduction. Each timeless classic is then hand painted, gilded, and finished before being given the OBW seal of approval.



Company Director, Philip Masters commented: “Laurence originally approached us about making some Antler wall lights and also wanted us to create some faux coral curtain tie-backs but when he came into our workshop, it was the faux books he instantly fell for.”

“He opted for a range of antique-looking traditional classics as well as a selection of modern paperbacks. Laurence was most amused when we included a Linda Barker book title “*Just Junk*” in the paperback section and he has encouraged his children to choose their own bespoke faux book titles, which was a source of much excitement in the home” said Philip.

As a result of their fortuitous meeting, OBW’s Philip Masters and his faux books are being featured in a new LIVING TV series called ‘*To the Manor Bowen*’.

The eight-part series which starts on 7th November follows Laurence, his wife Jackie and their children Cecile and Hermione, as they swap their lavish London lifestyle for a calmer, countryside existence.

Philip explained: “Shelves lined with faux books can be used imaginatively in any household and to great effect. They are tailor-made to fit any dimension and for example, could conceal unsightly areas that still need to be accessed, such as utility meters or used to create hidden doorways leading to other rooms, such as in Laurence’s library.”

The company has recently expanded its range of traditional faux book panels and are now offering their clients bespoke titles, as well as the more time-honoured classics. The reproduction or faux book spines are available in five traditional colours: burnished tan, antiqued red, faded green, imperial black and vellum or off-white.





The latest book product introduced only this year, is an innovative range of modern paperback book panels. These differ from their antique looking relatives as they actually are real books which have been cut down to leave just the original spines and then set into blocks. OBW's craftsmen then diligently create panels by hand to fit client's exact requirements.

The clean, classical lines of OBW's showcase books means that they look sensational in any setting; from an office to a dining room, or from a modern house to a stately home.

In order to appreciate the full range of faux books available, please visit: www.originalbooks.net or call them on 01285 641664 for more information.

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