

(Library ebook) London Under London: A Subterranean Guide

London Under London: A Subterranean Guide

Richard Trench, Ellis Hillman

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Richard Trench, Ellis Hillman : London Under London: A Subterranean Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised London Under London: A Subterranean Guide:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pictures are Too SmallBy Stephen MannThe subject of the unseen world beneath the feet of Londoners is a fascinating one and the treatment here - of necessity something of a detailed overview given the sheer expanse of the scope (one might fill a book with just the story of the rivers, or the gas lines, or the railway conduits) - is reasonably well done.The one possible exception being the first chapter, concerning wartime use of the London Underground as a refuge, which I felt to be out of place, a bit disorganized and far too abbreviated to do the job it was trying to do.I got the feeling this was added in later, after the rest of the book was written, as it doesn't really fit where it is in the structure of the rest of the book and has a rather cramped and hurried feel lacking in the other chapters, almost as though the author were including the material against his better judgement. That chapter is, you see, about people rather than places, whereas the rest of he book is anchored in the places it speaks of. No matter, and no stars off for that.My only real complaint, and it's a big, two stars off one, is that the pictures used throughout are universally too small, especially the wretched postage-stamp thumbnails that litter the margins. Even when my eyeballs were young and healthy I would have had problems with this artwork.It is obvious that in a book like this pictures are going to be an essential adjunct to any text, possibly even more important in places. The pictures in this book do not for the most part do the job they are supposed to because one can barely make out what is being shown in them. I require a pocket lens to make out any of the details of even some of the half-page illustrations reproduced in this book and you may too.The section on rivers would have benefited with a better map

properly keyed to show the details of the modern-day geography mentioned in the text, and from not only a unified map of the whole for the "big picture" but of enlarged maps of the particular river, stream or brook under discussion in a given section taken from that big picture map and enlarged to suit. Sometimes the style is a little uneven. As I say, the subject is fascinating and the author clearly knows his stuff. He just struggled in places to tell it in this book and the graphic elements are a bitter let-down. Even so, I think this is the most comprehensive overview of the whole question of the goings-on under London I have in my collection, and if you were only going to buy one book on the subject you could do much, much worse than this one. Recommended, with reservations, in the hope the author will revisit the subject with the benefit of hindsight and feedback. I'd buy a New Edition with better pictures. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating! By M SAs a London Underground enthusiast, I just couldn't resist what this book had to offer. The sections on the history of the Underground were very informative and easy to read. But there's more to the book than that. I thoroughly enjoyed every page. The author's conversational (and often amusing) tone lend a lightness to a subject that could otherwise be very dull. The book runs the gamut of subjects--from the underground and now mostly mysterious Fleet to the high-speed cables of British Telecom. It's all there. This book is an excellent resource for anyone doing research, and a great read if you're fascinated by things beneath the surface. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Deeply fascinating By Dr. Huber A near-complete and thorough description of what cannot be normally seen, well illustrated and written with tongue in cheek. For me, a keeper.

A revised edition of a guide covering the latest underground developments in London, such as the substation beneath Leicester Square, underground railways and glass fibre communication together with a gazetteer of places open to the public.

"One of the most enthralling books ever written on London." -- House and Garden " 'London Under London' is knowledgeable, lively, opinionated and utterly fascinating." -- Evening Standard About the Author Richard Trench has worked for the Observer, the Guardian and the Financial Times on a freelance basis, and from 1982 to 1987 he wrote the Time Out Guide to Paris. He is also the author of "Forbidden Sands," an account of his crossing of the Sahara to the salt mines of Taoudenni, "Arabian Travellers," "George Philips London" and "Travellers in Britain." Ellis Hillman, a passionate enthusiast about subterranean London, is Chairman of the London Subterranean Survey Association, founder and president of the Lewis Carroll Society, principal lecturer in environmental studies at the University of East London and a councillor for the London Borough of Barnet.