

# The Office

BOX-ROOM | FIRE

TREVELYAN VEAN

## Timeline c. 1882 – 1929



- *Place:* New York, New York, USA.
- *Time:* Châteauesque mansion on Fifth Avenue on the Upper East Side in New York City. Built 1882–87, the design of the three-and-a-half-story French Renaissance-style mansion is a blending of late French Gothic style and Beaux-Arts refinement.

## Occupant Jack D'Olore

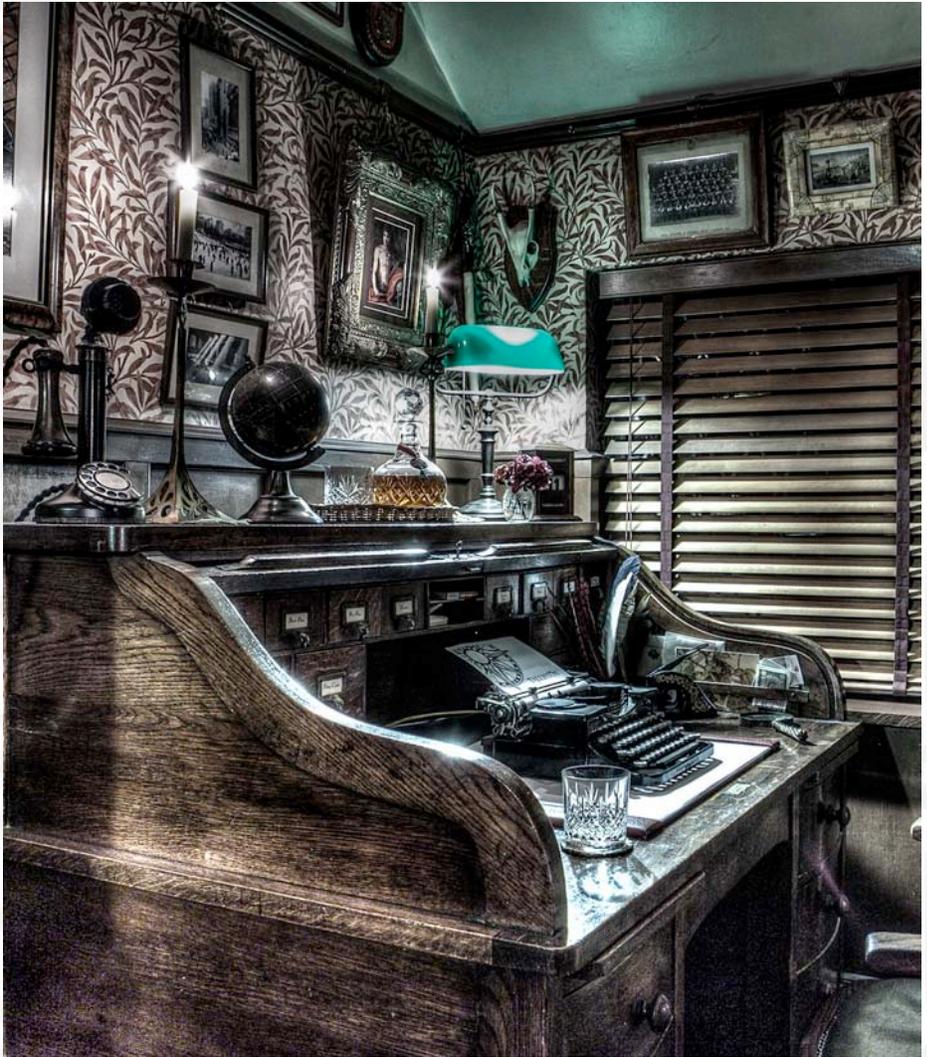


Jacques-Michel D'Olore was born in poverty on the western coast of Haiti in 1903, but moved to England to work for wealthy Cornish family. After his son, Jean-Michel, was willed the entire Trevelyan Veane estate by its eccentric owner before his death, Jacques moved to New York to run the family's esoteric book publishing empire.

## Almanack Eleventh Moon



- *Owl Moon:* Of Birds
- *Season:* Summer (Light half of year)
- *Opposition room:* The Cabin (Fire vs Earth)
- *Daimonion:* Cthulhu
- *Oracle:* Aleister Crowley Thoth Tarot



XI

FIRE

- *Sights:* Office-turned-study for writer and collector of the occult and the bizarre.
- *Sounds:* Early jazz and moody standards create a backdrop just like its very own unique cabinet of curiosities.
- *Smells:* Deep tones of smoky chambers and ancient books.
  - Top note: Diptyque Feu De Bois room spray
  - Middle note: Satya Sai Baba Nag Champa
  - Base note: L'Artesan Parfumeur amber solid and oils



**TALLISTON**  
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN



## Highlights

- **THE OFFICE DOOR**

Teak door with reeded glass and gold lettering announcing this as room number 11, J E Trevillian & Associates, Estd. 1925. Behind the glass hangs a custom-made roller blind of Scottish Holland cloth.

- **WALLS AND FLOORING**

The walls sport Morris & Co. Willow Bough wallpaper while upon the floor can be found checkerboard tiles of Marmoleum in barley and burgundy.

- **THE ROLL-TOP DESK**

Quarter-cut American oak S-shaped desk with bow front drawers and turned handles with green leather Edwardian rocker chair. Upon the desk is a Royal typewriter, made in the USA.

- **THE BOOKCASE**

Apothecary-styled bookcase again in quarter-cut American oak, designed to perfectly match the roll-top desk in both style and proportion.

- **THE OWL PHOTOGRAPH**

Jedediah kept a variety of animals and birds, including this snowy owl (*Nyctea Scandiaca*). To the ears of a seven-year-old boy, the name was heard as 'Tarrow', hence the spelling on the brass plate of this framed photograph, hung here after the bird's recent death.

- **THE PAINTINGS**

The office is hung with many photographs and framed pictures including framed reproductions of famous works of art such as Island of the Dead (Arnold Böcklin, 1800), The Tower of Babel (Pieter Bruegel the Elder, c.1563) and St John the Baptist (Andrea del Sarto, 1528).

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## The story of Trevelyan Vean

Set within this grand Jacobean mansion lies the office of writer and wealthy publisher, Jedediah Elston Trevillian (*English: habitational name from Trevelyan; 'house at the mill'*). Its mix of oak furniture and cabinetry is less grandiose than other areas of the building, but does showcase the owner's interest in the peculiar, the exotic and strange.

In late 1925, Trevillian died in this room aged 86 – and in a bizarre final twist to the eccentric's life, his estate, company and fortune were willed not to his squabbling family, but instead to a seven-year-old boy caught trespassing in the grounds on the day of his death.

Included in the many Trevillian properties was Trevelyan Vean, a Châteauesque mansion on Fifth Avenue on the Upper East Side in New York City. Close by the mansions of the Astors and Vanderbilts, the French Renaissance-style chateau was designed as a blending of late French Gothic style and Beaux-Arts refinement for the design of the three-and-a-half-story mansion. The elaborate asymmetrical facade was faced in gray Indiana limestone, with an irregular roof of blue-gray slate trimmed with copper. The office is on the second floor, and details the life of its original owner, his explorations and adventures.

### The Puppets

Bizarre collection of handmade puppets consisting of four exotic characters:

- The Masquerader: a masked dancer
- The Rathcatcher: a cloaked skeleton
- Dr Abomination: a masked surgeon
- Captain Maniac: an adult Boy Scout

