

# Merrylin Cryptid Museum

---

 merrylinmuseum.squarespace.com/welcome

## Welcome, explorer.

You have stumbled upon the Merrylin Cryptid Museum, the life's work of fictional Crypto-naturalist, Fringe Zoologist and Xeno -Archeologist Thomas Merrylin. This is alternative history installation project that ran from 2006 - 2015 and was created by artist Alex CF. The museum was an exercise in a passion for turn of the century scientific discovery, science fiction, fantasy and horror, presented as though it were real, as an immersive experience for the viewer. The entire collection was painstakingly made to explore the idea of rooting mythology within Darwinian evolution, with a focus on making the fantastical plausible. It was never a hoax, or to fool anyone, it was merely escapism for those who revelled in 19th century intrigue, natural history, fictional worlds and Lovecraftian horror. The museum was supposed to inspire, but sadly, in the age of 'alternative facts' it became associated with ideals that were very far removed from its purpose. The Merrylin Collection was about our similarities, about the connectivity of all life, about how we should protect species, not obsess over them once they are extinct and become myth. The Merrylin collection was about evidence based science, about using critical thinking. Regardless of whether you came seeking truths, let that be what you leave with, that the world is full of very real, very incredible species, and artefacts of cultures we must preserve, protect and understand. If you are interested in Alex's work outside of the collection, you can visit [alexcf.com](http://alexcf.com). He is an illustrator and author of fantasy fiction.



Born in 1782 to a rich aristocratic family. His mother died during childbirth and he was raised by his Father Edward. His father was a General in the Army, but once retired became enamoured with esoteric natural history, investing in profitable companies to fund his travels across the world, seeking out illusive artefacts and hidden species which resided in forgotten continents or darkened places, away from prying human eyes.

They traveled together for many years until his fathers sudden death. This event turned Thomas into a recluse, seeking solace in his work and befriending very few. He tutored himself in the grand Library at Merrylin house, yet also studied at the University College London on Gower street. Even then, he isolated himself from other students.



A bizarre quality of Merrylin was his apparent permanent youthfulness. Even in his 80's, he still resembled a 40 year old, albeit of odd complexion, and his few bizarre forays into the eyes of the media only furthered his infamy. He was accused of practicing dark arts to prolong his life. Yet, eminent scholars secretly allied themselves with him, encouraging him to share his collection with the world. In 1899, he took a small portion of his specimens on tour across America. Conservative attitudes of the time condemned these creatures, calling them blasphemous. His reaction was severe and the tour was canceled before it reached California.

In the following years, Merrylin extended the collection exponentially. He traveled to the four corners of the Earth and learned of ideologies and sciences which astounded those who corresponded with him. He held within his ranks a legion of colleagues who would benefit from his endless search. In truth, we did not know what he was searching for, until very recently. The collection houses mathematics not dreamt of in his time, of theories that we are only now contemplating. Merrylin posets the possibilities of the multiverse, of time travel, of quantum mechanics - before the terms existed. Merrylin is an enigma.

He fell into obscurity, until 1942.

The *Tunbridge Orphanage for boys* was contacted by a man purporting to be Thomas Theodore Merrylin, in the spring of that year. He wished to donate a sizeable London town house to the Orphanage for use once the war was over, and children returned. The only proviso was that the basement of the house never be opened and the house never sold. The Orphanage stood by this promise, until absolved in the 60's and the existence of the cellar forgotten. Sealed behind two brick walls, the door was only found by chance when the foundations were checked prior to demolition. The Thomas Merrylin pictured in a local newspaper, handing over the documents for ownership to the new proprietor was in his forties. By this time, Merrylin would have been over 160 years old. The name sparked interest from those who had followed Merrylin's work, most assuming him long dead. But the man claiming to be Thomas promptly disappeared. Leaving no evidence of his existence. The Merrylin estate was also sold off and money given to charity.

## GENEROUS GIFT TO LONDON ORPHANAGE



Wealthy recluse makes surprise donation to struggling charity

The Tanbridge school for boys benefited greatly today as the deeds to a large townhouse in central London were handed over to their proprietor, a Mr. John Standard. The sizeable fifteen-bedroom property came from the estate of Thomas Merrylin, believed to be the grandson of a renowned naturalist and explorer of the same name. Thomas Merrylin senior was a man of great mystery, and it appears this eccentricity runs in the family. All attempts to contact him for a comment regarding his kind donation have failed. Despite a little renovation the building is in tip-top condition and survived the Blitz relatively unscathed. It will be opened to the children in the summer of next year.

Mr. John Standard, pictured with Thomas Merrylin, outside the donated property, April 14th 1942

## GEORGE CROSS OF MALTA

King George VI awards the George Cross to Malta in recognition of the untiring spirit of the Maltese people during the recent months of the German and Italian bombardment of the island.