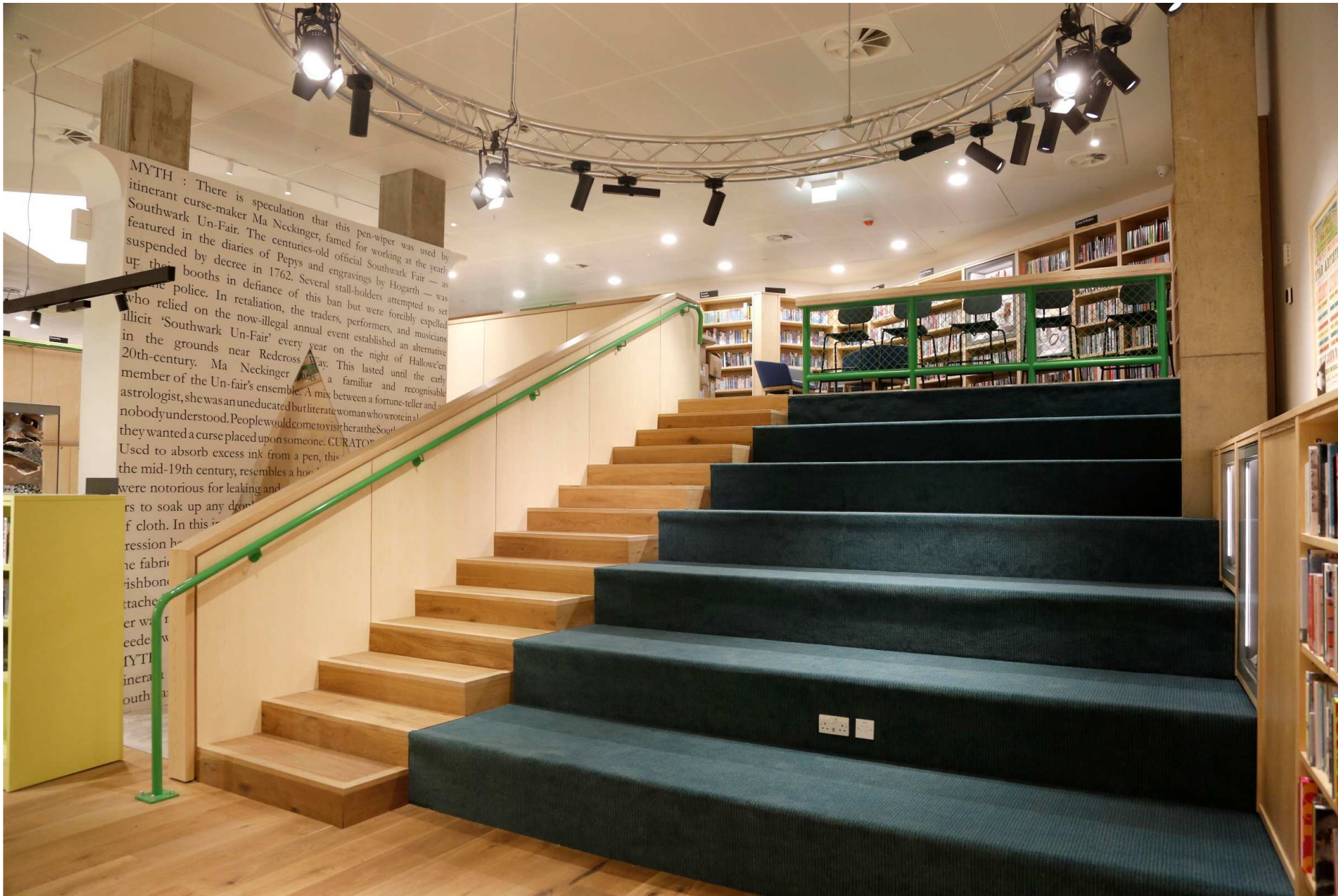


Southwark Heritage Centre and Walworth Library



MYTH : There is speculation that this pen-wiper was used by itinerant curse-maker Ma Neckinger, famed for working at the yearly Southwark Un-Fair. The centuries-old official Southwark Fair — as featured in the diaries of Pepys and engravings by Hogarth — was suspended by decree in 1762. Several stall-holders by Hogarth — as up their booths in defiance of this ban but were forcibly expelled by the police. In retaliation, the traders, performers, and musicians who relied on the now-illegal annual event established an alternative illicit 'Southwark Un-Fair' every year on the night of Halloween in the grounds near Rodeross Way. This lasted until the early 20th-century. Ma Neckinger was a familiar and recognisable member of the Un-fair's ensemble. A mix between a fortune-teller and astrologist, she was an uneducated but literate woman who wrote in a nobody understood. People would come to visit her at the Southwark Un-Fair where they wanted a curse placed upon someone. CURATOR
Used to absorb excess ink from a pen, this inkstone, common in the mid-19th century, resembles a horse's hoof. Inkstones were notorious for leaking and were used by scholars to soak up any dropped ink from their sleeves of cloth. In this exhibition, the inkstone is made from a fabric of fishbone and attached to a wooden base. The eraser was made with eel's skin. MYTH: Itinerant Southwark Un-Fair



...in 1702, several...
...the illegal...
...Southwark Un-Fair...
...the grounds near...
...21st century...
...member of the...
...astrologer, she...
...nobody understood...
...they wanted a...
Horror









