

## Milligan Covers

The covers of Spike's books show an evolution of thought about them over the years. The first hardback covers were designed by Spike himself and were to be part of the enjoyment of the book. The whole of the dust jacket was covered with drawings, messages. The spine particularly often carried a message to entice the book shop browser to have a closer look.

e.g.

"Do not open this side"

"Come inside its funnier"

"To read pull out and open"

The spine of the cover had the traditional book's name and author but in hand drawn lettering. Spike often illustrated the endpapers and the half title page as well.

The exception is Puckoon, he was away when the hardback was being published but he was obviously very hands on with the Penguin paperback. He designed the cover of which has remained very much unchanged from its original form until 2014.

Many of the dust jackets were designed to be looked at as one open canvas.

e.g. *Milligan's Ark*

The paperback covers also follow this trend although as time went on they show less creative involvement by Spike and more of the publisher demand for shelf appeal.

1977-78 Tandem produce a range of new cover designs with illustrations by Campbell/Bouttell, the publisher wanting a more professional look perhaps. Tandem dispensed with any Milligan illustrations on the covers of their books but Penguin incorporated his illustrations in their redesigned covers.

The latest Penguin reprints of his books, all seven war memoirs and Puckoon show uniformity in design with his name taking the prominent spot on the cover.

