

Signs of the Times

Signs, signs: They are everywhere – on billboards, atop skyscrapers, plastered on the walls of apartment buildings, glaring from streetcars and buses, and even strung behind airplanes. Their purposes are varied, including the proclamation of information, sales appeals, inspiration and encouragement. Some are designed to nurture wisdom, and others to evoke a smile or outright laughter.

Here are some of the more creative ones I have come across:

- **Sign in a Vermont bookshop:** We open Monday through Saturday at 9 a.m. Occasionally, if it's a real nice day, we open as early as 8:30. But some days, especially if it is raining, we don't open until 11. We close about 5 or 5:30. Occasionally, we close at 4:30, especially when the world seems dreary.
- **Sign on an office desk:** The buck pauses here and, having paused, moves on.
- **An Army chaplain posted the following sign on the door of his quarters:** If you have troubles, come in and tell us about them. If not, come in and tell us how you do it.
- **Sign outside a riding stable:** We have fast horses for folks who like to ride fast. We have slow horses for folks who ride slow. We have big horses for big folks, and we have little horses for little folks. And for those who have never ridden horses before, we have horses that have never been ridden.
- **Sign attached to the in-basket on a manager's desk:** It has come to the attention of this desk that too much comes to the attention of this desk.
- **Sign in a bookstore:** Browsers welcome, both high browse and low browse.
- **Sign in the window of an English company:** We have been established for over 100 years and have been pleasing and displeasing customers ever since. We have made money and lost money, suffered the effects of coal nationalization, coal rationing, government control, and bad payers. We have been cussed and discussed, messed about, lied to, held up, robbed, and swindled. The only reason we stay in business is to see what happens next.



So there they are. If you have a favorite sign, submit it. We might do this again. Signing off, for now.

– Beecher Hunter