

Thatcher's Funeral



Simon Robinson is the single photographer behind *A Fistful of Books*, which currently publishes his own work, but which is intended to feature others' in due course. To date he has published five books in the same zine format, and *Thatcher's Funeral* is the latest. It's a little thicker than the other zine-format books reviewed here, at 68 pages, but otherwise is similar, digitally printed and saddle-stitched. The book documents 'the spectacle of the ceremonial funeral' of Margaret Thatcher on the 17th of April 2013. Like the books released by *Café Royal*, it's extremely thorough, and looks at its subject from many angles. The police are everywhere. Some people try to carry on their normal business behind the barriers (a group of Sikhs protest outside the Indian High Commission), but for the most part the West End and the City are shown at a standstill. Union flags are visible, but not as many as you'd think; the coffin is draped in

one, of course, in the two images in which it is seen, first in the hearse, on Whitehall, and then on the gun carriage on High Holborn. There are a lot more bowler hats than I'd have expected: I counted four. In one image every bollard lining a particular street has someone perched on it, trying to see the procession pass by, out of the picture frame. There are some protesters, some messages of support, and a lot of gawpers. The last photo inside the book (before the one on the back cover, I mean) shows a couple of men in a pub, their dark overcoats and black shoes marking them out from the drinkers who surround them. They could be reporters, but they look like straggling, introspective mourners, contemplating their lot and doing what's expected of them after a distant acquaintance's desultory funeral. protesters, some messages of support, and a lot of gawpers. The last photo inside the book

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