



An Arthur Ransome Assortment

1. **Ransome, Arthur. The Stone Lady Ten Little Papers and Two Mad Stories.**

London: S. C. Brown, Langham & Co., Ltd, The Lanthorn Press, 1905.

First edition. 181 pages. The book is firmly bound in quarter brown cloth, simply lettered and decorated in gilt, over brown patterned paper-covered boards, both boards and cloth are lightly rubbed, bumped and marked. The binding looks fairly recent, probably late-twentieth century. The text block is lightly toned and marked, mostly to the edges, it is internally quite clean, though it was originally roughly opened, with consequent short closed tears and chips to the top edges of some pages and a longer closed tear to the fore-edge of page D4. Ransome's second collection of romantic, whimsical and effervescent short sketches, some inspired by his youthful ramblings in Bohemia and abroad, others fantastical, with two short stories, one loosely historical and set in Ancient Greece, the other in the world of the fae. Even compared with his first collection, 'The Souls of the Streets' (1904), a smaller volume from the same publisher, it is rare, seemingly only held by the BL in terms of U.K. institutional holdings, and seldom appearing in commerce.

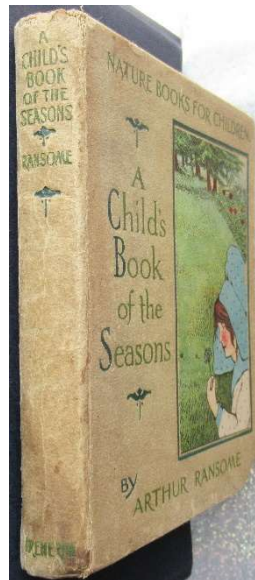
£1,500

2. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Frances Craine). The Child's Book of the Seasons.**

London: Anthony Treherne & Company, Ltd., 1906.

First edition. 94 pages + 7 (of the 10 called for by Hammond) colour plates by Crane. A small book bound in the publisher's illustrated paper-covered boards, which are quite chipped, marked and rubbed, with staining to the rear board. The text block is age browned, several of the plates that remain are detached, with chips to the edges, and it is slightly cracked at the gutters, with the mull showing. The first of an intended series of six books for children, an early venture for Ransome, which failed after only the first three due to the publisher going bankrupt. Of interest for the illustrations as much as anything else, which are possibly by Mary Frances Crane, wife of Walter, who died tragically in 1909, either a misspelling or a loose pseudonym, as there seems nothing else beyond the three books of this series credited to Frances Craine in library holdings. In poor shape, but quite a rare book in any condition, due to the fragile nature of production and intended audience.

£75

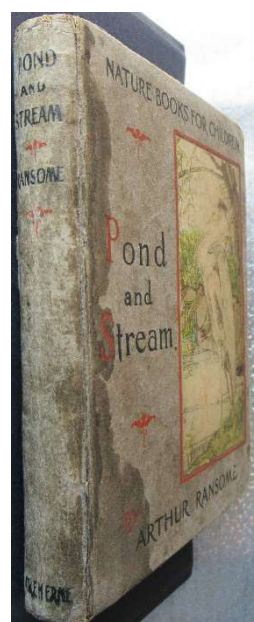


3. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Frances Craine). Pond and Stream.**

London: Anthony Treherne & Company, Ltd., 1906.

First edition. 95 pages + 6 (of the 11 called for by Hammond) colour plates by Crane. A small book bound in the publisher's illustrated paper-covered boards, re-backed and with new endpapers front and rear, which are quite chipped, marked, rubbed and stained. The text block is age browned and marked, a good proportion of pages have closed tears or loss to the edges, though with no obvious loss of text. The second of an intended series of six books for children, an early venture for Ransome, which failed after only the first three due to the publisher going bankrupt. Of interest for the illustrations as much as anything else, which are possibly by Mary Frances Crane, wife of Walter, who died tragically in 1909, either a misspelling or a loose pseudonym, as there seems nothing else beyond the three books of this series credited to Frances Craine in library holdings. In poor shape, but quite a rare book in any condition, due to the fragile nature of production and intended audience.

£70



4. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Fred Taylor). Bohemia In London.**

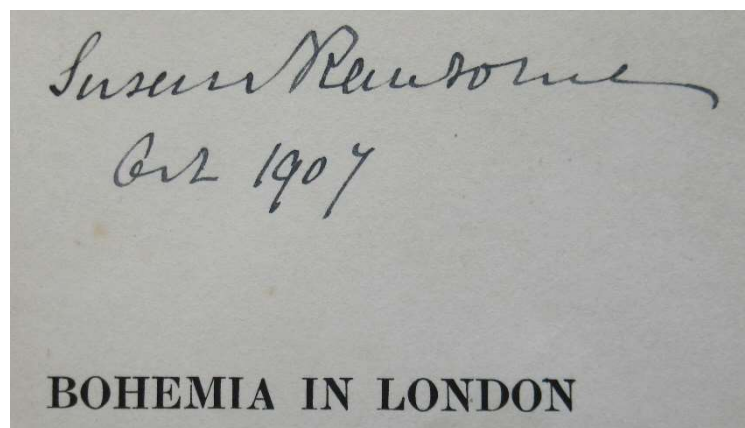
London: Chapman & Hall, Limited, 1907.

First edition. 284 pages + 14 (of 16) black and white illustrations on grey card. With some interesting multi-layered provenance, there is an ownership inscription to the half-title page: "Susan Ransome Oct 1907", this believed to be Arthur Ransome's great-aunt Susan (b. 1834 d. 1909). The book is further from the estate of John Bell (1922-2008), one of Ransome's literary executors, with "return to John Bell" written faintly in pencil to the first blank page, and with a copy of a 1991

letter from Bell loosely inserted

confirming that: "the Ransome titles all belonged to AR, though there are I think no markings.", and a further printed note from the recipient of Bell's letter, John Cowen, the notable Ransome collector, confirming that he received this title from Bell, along with three others, in exchange for a first edition of 'Thorstein of the Mere'. The book is bound in the publisher's grey cloth, lettered and illustrated in gilt, black and brown, neatly re-backed, with the original spine-strip laid on grey cloth and new endpapers front and rear, the cloth is stained, rubbed and bumped, with some loss of the original at the spine ends and other minor tears. The text block is age toned, marked and slightly foxed, with some short closed tears to a few page edges. An interesting early Ransome title, his first major success, comparing the historical Bohemian London of Lamb and Hazlitt with its modern equivalent, and with an affectionate nod to London's many faux bohemians, such as the bank clerk, who, using his beard for disguise, goes out in a floppy hat of an evening seeking relief from his humdrum existence. This copy, though in fairly unkempt and battered condition, with excellent provenance, having belonged to a member of the Ransome family, and it would seem, on good authority, to have returned to Arthur Ransome himself at some point after his aunt's death and resided on his own shelf.

£350

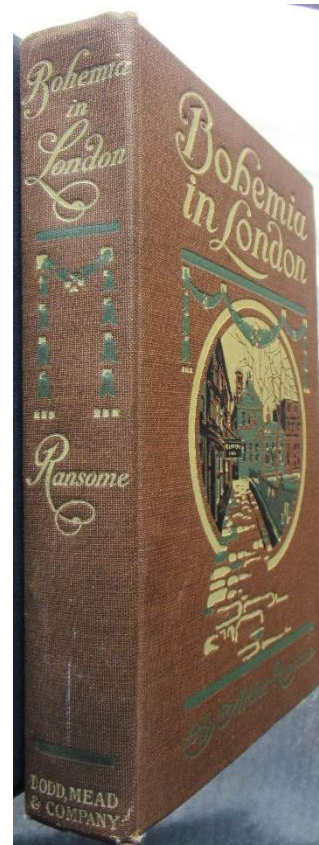


5. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Fred Taylor). Bohemia In London.**

New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1907.

First U.S. edition. 293 pages + 16 black and white illustrated plates. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's brown cloth, lettered and illustrated in green, cream and darker brown, Hammond's second binding variant with the spine imprint 2.7cm wide, no priority established. The boards are slightly marked and rubbed, with minor bumping and slight fraying to the extremities. The text block is age browned, the plates more so, and there is offsetting from the plates, it is slightly foxed and marked, with small chips and short closed tears to a few page edges, including the rear endpaper. An interesting edition, published two months after the first British edition, varying quite considerably in appearance and construction, and with omissions from the bawdier elements of the text to satisfy the American publishers. Though with some faults, this a much better copy than often encountered, as the lettering and decoration to the front board and spine are prone to loss.

£220



6. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Fred Taylor). Bohemia In London.**

Toronto: The Musson Book Co., Limited, 1907.

First Canadian edition. 293 pages + 16 black and white illustrated plates. The book is quite firmly bound in the publisher's brown cloth, lettered and illustrated in green, white and darker brown, the boards are somewhat bumped, rubbed and slightly marked, more so to the spine, with bumping to the extremities and minor tears to the cloth. The text block, with gilt to the top-edge, is slightly toned, marked and foxed, the front endpaper has been neatly removed and the book opens at the half-title page, some pages have been quite roughly opened with consequent short closed tears and chipping to the edges, other pages towards the rear are entirely unopened, suggesting the original owner did not persevere to the end of the book and that nobody has read it since. The Canadian edition seems to vary only slightly from its American counterpart, aside from the gilded top edge and the different imprint. It is, however, something of a rarity; Hammond notes its existence in his bibliography, but was unable to find a copy to peruse.

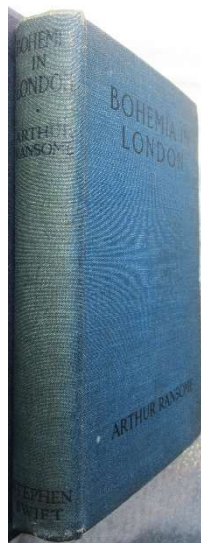
£200

7. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Fred Taylor). Bohemia In London.**

London: Stephen Swift and Co Limited, 1912.

Second edition. 293 pages + 6 of ads. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's blue cloth, lettered in black, the boards are somewhat toned and rubbed, with minor marks, more so to the spine, the extremities are slightly bumped. The text block is slightly foxed, marked and age toned, with a neatly written name in ink to the front pastedown.

£65



8. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by J. Gavin). A History of Story-Telling Studies in the Development of Narrative.**

London: T. C. & E. C. Jack, 1909.

First edition. 318 pages + 27 black and white portrait illustrations. Hammonds second issue, stamped in black to the front board, and with an errata slip before the Preface. The book is quite firmly bound in the publisher's blue cloth, lettered and illustrated in black and gilt, the cloth is slightly marked and rubbed, the spine is slightly age darkened and the extremities are bumped. The text block is slightly foxed, marked and toned, with the neatly written ink ownership inscription of a George

H. Green to the front endpaper, dated 1921, with his rather attractive bookplate to the front pastedown opposite, featuring a vorticist inspired design. A series of light but entertaining essays on the development of literary craft across the centuries, mainly devoted to English male authors, though with a typical sprinkling of Europeans, several Americans and two women, Fanny Burney and Jane Austen, who come off reasonably well for the period (Austen less so in Gavin's portrait).

£50



**A HISTORY OF
STORY-TELLING**

STUDIES IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF NARRATIVE
BY
ARTHUR RANSOME

Editor of "The World's Story-Tellers"



WITH 27 PORTRAITS BY J. GAVIN

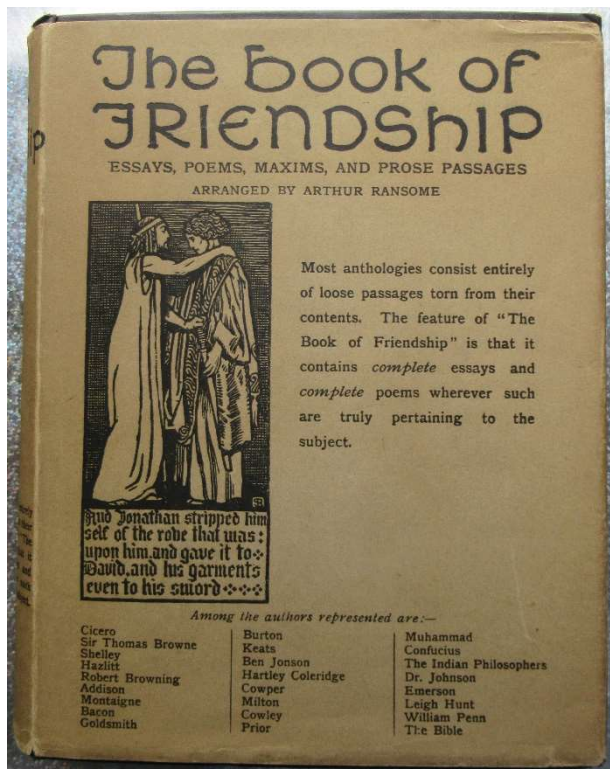
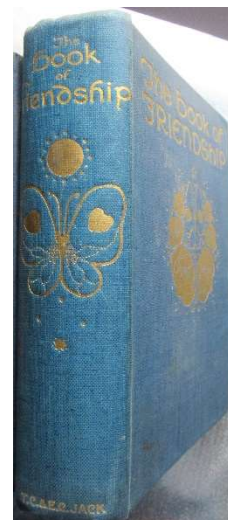
LONDON: T. C. & E. C. JACK
16 HENRIETTA STREET, W.C.
1909

9. **Ransome, Arthur (editor). The Book of Friendship : Essays Poems Maxims & Prose Passages.**

London: T. C. & E. C. Jack, 1909.

First edition. 478 pages. The book is firmly bound in blue buckram, lettered and decorated in gilt, the cloth is slightly marked and rubbed and the extremities are bumped. The text block, with gilt to the top-edge, is slightly toned, marked and foxed, with minor cracking at points and a small bookseller's label to the front pastedown. An attractive copy, in one of the three binding variants issued by the publisher.

£35



10. **Ransome, Arthur (editor). The Book of Friendship : Essays Poems Maxims & Prose Passages.**

New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1910.

First edition. 478 pages. The book is firmly bound in black cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt, purple and blue, the cloth is a trifle marked and rubbed and the extremities are bumped, with some short splits at the spine ends. The text block, with gilt to the top-edge, is slightly toned, marked and foxed, with minor cracking at points, there is a small circular label to the front pastedown, and a small U.S. bookseller's label to the rear pastedown. The dust jacket is the original, it is slightly rubbed and marked, with some small chips and short closed tears to the edges. The U.S. first edition is uncommon, decidedly so in the original dust jacket.

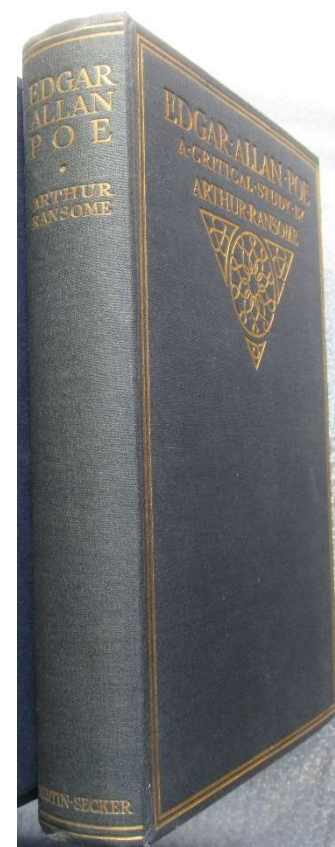
£150

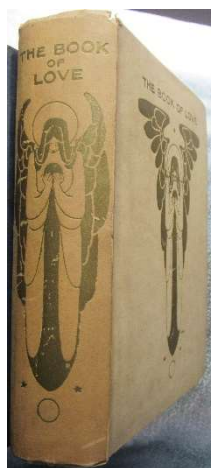
11. **Ransome, Arthur. Edgar Allan Poe A Critical Study.**

London: Martin Secker, 1910.

First edition. 237 pages + tissue-guarded portrait frontispiece and 12-page catalogue. The book is firmly bound in dark blue cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt, the cloth is lightly marked and rubbed and the extremities are a little bumped. The text block is slightly foxed and age toned, with a former owner's nautically themed bookplate to the front endpaper, the gatherings are almost entirely unopened, and the book is clearly unread, though this has had its drawbacks, as when people have gone to open it casually damage has occurred, in the form a long closed tear to the fore-edge of F4 and a another to the top of L4, though there is no loss of text and they could easily be repaired, there are also grubby marks between pages L3 and L4. Ransome's first long, serious study of a single author, building on the short piece about Poe in his 'A History of Story-Telling'. According to Hammond 700 copies were printed, and it is quite uncommon.

£100





12. **Ransome, Arthur (editor). The Book of Love : Essays Poems Maxims & Prose Passages.**

New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1911.

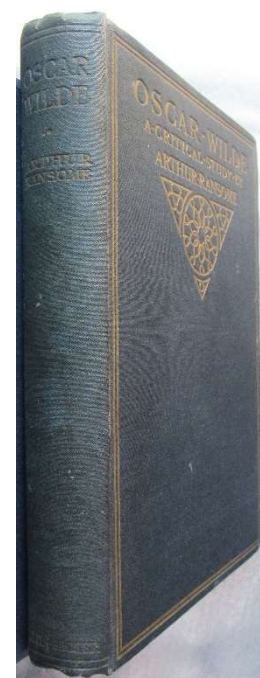
First U.S. edition. 458 pages. The book is quite firmly bound in the publisher's deluxe parchment binding, lettered and decorated in gilt, the boards are quite grubby, toned, rubbed and marked, the extremities are bumped and there are minor chips at the spine ends. The text block is slightly toned, marked and stained, with some small chips and short closed tears to the edges of a few roughly opened pages. The U.S. edition is quite uncommon.

£45

13. **Ransome, Arthur. Oscar Wilde A Critical Study.**

London: Martin Secker, 1912.

First edition. 213 pages + 10 of ads. The book is quite firmly bound in the publisher's dark blue cloth, lettered and decorated in somewhat tarnished gilt, the boards are slightly marked and rubbed, the spine is age darkened and the extremities are bumped. The text block, with gilt to the top edge, is slightly age toned, foxed and marked. Generally regarded as the first serious posthumous study of Oscar Wilde's life and work, written with the assistance of Wilde's literary executor, Robert Ross, and with access to unpublished letters and material. Perhaps predictably, this resulted in several accusations of libel, most notably by Lord Alfred Douglas, who objected strongly to references to the original letter on which De Profundis was based, addressed to: "a man to whom Wilde felt that he owed some, at least, of the circumstances of his disgrace", particularly such lines as: "It was begun as a rebuke of this friend, whose actions, even subsequent to the trials, had been such as to cause Wilde considerable pain.". Unfortunately for Bosie, Ransome defended the ensuing libel suit successfully, with the help from Ross of the original documents and further letters, resulting in the former's bankruptcy and considerable reputational damage. Despite his successful defence, Ransome removed the offending passages from the second and subsequent editions, though this did nothing to harm sales, Methuen reprinted their affordable pocket-sized edition in large numbers over the next decade, and the book contributed significantly to Ransome's popular appeal, thereby improving his chances of persuading subsequent publishers to take a chance on his work. The first edition, with the original text intact, was printed before the trial, in a total run of 1500 copies, including 430 destined for America, and 85 for a colonial edition.

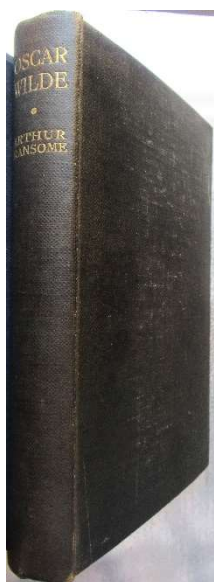


£70

14. **Ransome, Arthur. Oscar Wilde A Critical Study.**

London: Martin Secker, 1912.

First edition. 213 pages. The book is quite firmly bound in plain black buckram, with the author's name and title to the spine in gilt in the same style as the publisher's binding, but without the imprint to the lower spine, the boards are slightly bumped, bowed and rubbed, with minor marks. The text block is slightly age toned, foxed and marked, with slight cracking at points and some dog-eared page corners, the front endpaper has been fairly neatly removed and an unsuccessful attempt has been made to remove a rather attractive bookplate from the front pastedown, this having failed the name on the bookplate has been thoroughly obscured with ink. Generally regarded as the first serious posthumous study of Oscar Wilde's life and work, written with the assistance of Wilde's literary executor, Robert Ross, and with access to unpublished letters and material. Perhaps predictably, this resulted in several accusations of libel, most notably by Lord Alfred Douglas, who objected strongly to references to the original



letter on which *De Profundis* was based, addressed to: "a man to whom Wilde felt that he owed some, at least, of the circumstances of his disgrace", particularly such lines as: "It was begun as a rebuke of this friend, whose actions, even subsequent to the trials, had been such as to cause Wilde considerable pain.". Unfortunately for Bosie, Ransome defended the ensuing libel suit successfully, with the help from Ross of the original documents and further letters, resulting in the former's bankruptcy and considerable reputational damage. Despite his successful defence, Ransome removed the offending passages from the second and subsequent editions. These were issued by Methuen, Secker cut ties with Ransome and sold him back the rights to the book, including, according to Hammond, regarding the first edition, an: "option to purchase 'such quires as remain' of the book", citing this as the likely explanation for copies such as this one in the obviously contemporary alternative binding, which has neither ads nor gilt to the top edge of the text block. Hammond further notes that Ransome personally advertised copies of the book for sale prior to the publication of the second edition, making it a tantalising prospect that Ransome at one point had this particular copy in his possession.

£60

15. **Ransome, Arthur. *Oscar Wilde A Critical Study*.**

New York: Mitchell Kennerley, 1912.

First U.S. edition. 213 pages + 2 of ads. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's dark blue cloth, lettered and decorated in slightly tarnished gilt, the boards are slightly marked and rubbed, and the extremities are bumped. The text block is slightly marked and age toned, with minor spots of foxing and a neatly written ownership inscription dated 1912 to the title page. Generally regarded as the first serious posthumous study of Oscar Wilde's life and work, written with the assistance of Wilde's literary executor, Robert Ross, and with access to unpublished letters and material. Perhaps predictably, this resulted in several accusations of libel, most notably by Lord Alfred Douglas, who objected strongly to references to the original letter on which *De Profundis* was based, addressed to: "a man to whom Wilde felt that he owed some, at least, of the circumstances of his disgrace", particularly such lines as: "It was begun as a rebuke of this friend, whose actions, even subsequent to the trials, had been such as to cause Wilde considerable pain.". Unfortunately for Bosie, Ransome defended the ensuing libel suit successfully, with the help from Ross of the original documents and further letters, resulting in the former's bankruptcy and considerable reputational damage. Despite his successful defence, Ransome removed the offending passages from the second and

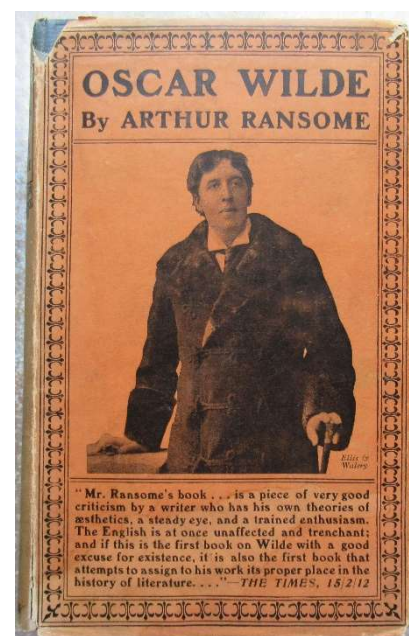
subsequent editions. Of the 1500 copies of the first edition originally printed, this is one of the 430 intended for the U.S. market, which appeared on American bookseller's shelves in April or May 1912, some two months after the U.K. version, with the objectionable passages still intact.

£100

16. **Ransome, Arthur. *Oscar Wilde A Critical Study*.**

London: Methuen & Co. Ltd, 1913.

Third edition. 234 pages + 3 of ads and an 8-page catalogue. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's blue cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt, the cloth is lightly marked and the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly toned and marked, with minor spots of foxing. The dust jacket, with a reproduction of one of Ellis & Walery's famous 1892 photographs of Wilde to the front cover, is the original, it is quite marked and rubbed, with chipping and short closed tears to the edges, also splits at the folds, some of which have been repaired with thin paper archival tape to the reverse, the spine is slightly sunned. The third edition overall, but the second printing of the second edition, dated a month after the first, and indicating the tremendous public enthusiasm for



Ransome's book following Lord Alfred Douglas's famous failed libel suit, despite Ransome having, by choice, omitted the offending passages which aroused Bosie's ire. Though printed in large numbers the Methuen edition is a cheaply produced pocket-sized volume, resulting in a consequently high attrition rate, and pre-WW1 examples with substantially intact original dust jackets are rarely encountered.

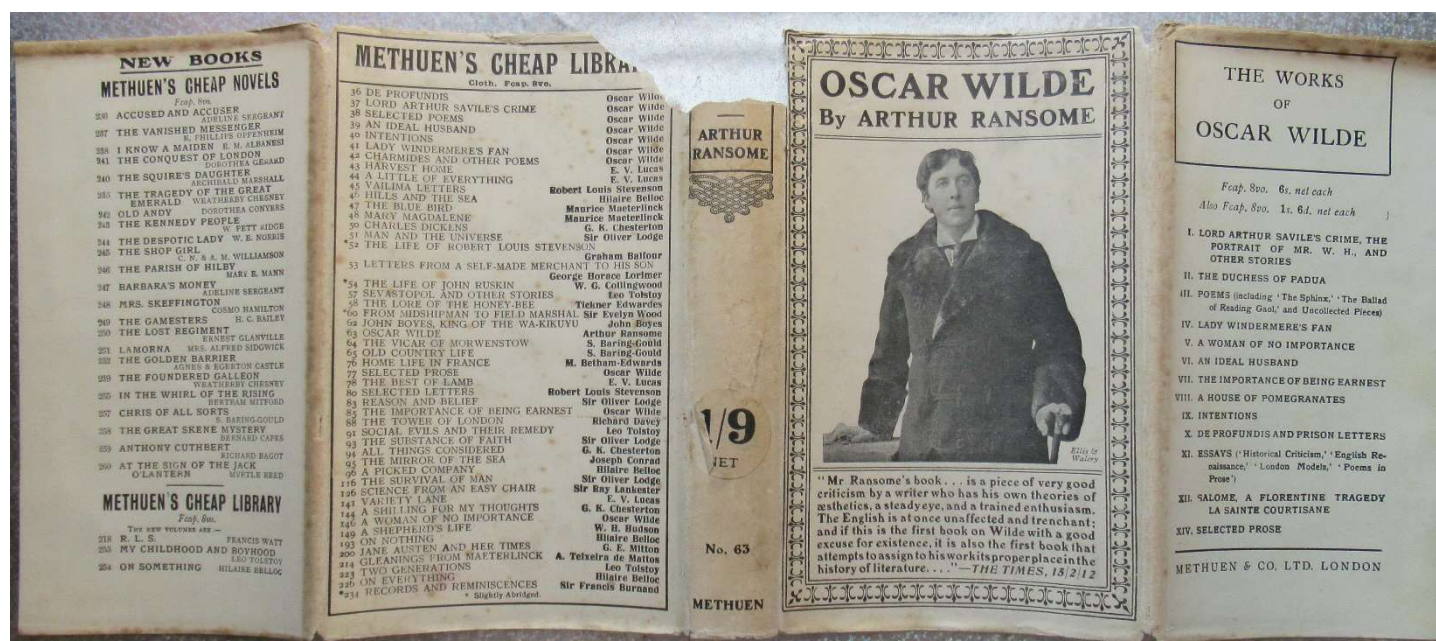
£130

17. **Ransome, Arthur. Oscar Wilde A Critical Study.**

London: Methuen & Co. Ltd, 1917.

Sixth edition. 234 pages + 3 of ads and an 8-page catalogue. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's blue cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt, the cloth is slightly marked and the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is age browned and slightly marked, with minor spots of foxing and a neatly written ink ownership inscription to the front endpaper. The dust jacket, with a reproduction of one of Ellis & Walery's famous 1892 photographs of Wilde to the front cover, is the original, it is slightly grubby, marked and foxed, with loss to the top of the spine and rear panel, also more minor chips and short closed tears to the edges. A wartime edition, printed on poor quality stock due to the paper shortages of the time, showing that the public's enthusiasm for Ransome's book in the wake of Lord Alfred Douglas's famous failed libel suit, had yet to subside. Copies retaining their dust jackets from this period are uncommon.

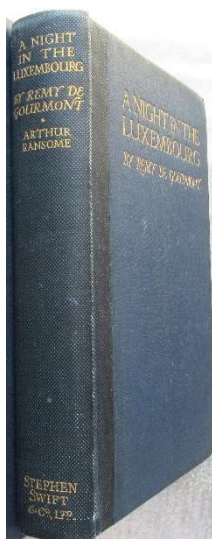
£55



18. **De Gourmont, Remy (translated by Arthur Ransome). A Night in the Luxembourg.**

London: Stephen Swift and Co Limited, 1912.

First edition. 221 pages + 8 of ads. With some interesting provenance, from the estate of John Bell (1922-2008), one of Ransome's literary executors, with a copy of a 1991 letter from Bell loosely inserted confirming that: "the Ransome titles all belonged to AR, though there are I think no markings.", and a further printed note from the recipient of Bell's letter, John Cowen, the notable Ransome collector, confirming that he received this title from Bell, along with three others, in exchange for a first edition of 'Thorstein of the Mere'. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's hard-wearing dark blue quarter cloth, over slightly smoother and lighter blue cloth covered boards, both lettered in gilt, the cloth is slightly bumped and rubbed, with minor marks. The text block is slightly foxed, marked and age toned, some of the pages are unopened, including the ads to the rear. A notable early work by Ransome, who was friends with De Gourmont, and greatly admired his work. The Appendix to the rear is Ransome's essay on De Gourmont, which previously appeared in the Fortnightly Review. A supernatural, seemingly pagan



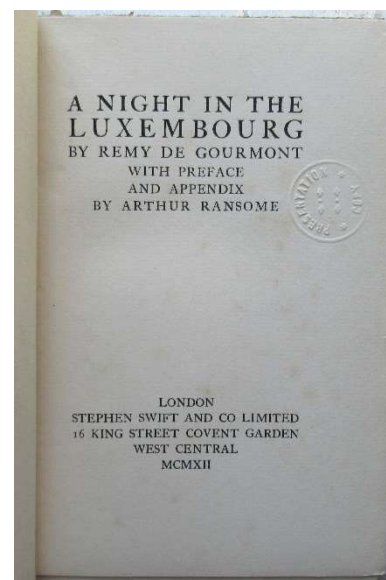
being descends to earth, and converses on matters philosophical, metaphysical and sensual, detailing the errors of humankind over the centuries, with an interesting framing narrative involving a mysterious death and a discovered manuscript. Described by Ransome in his Translator's Preface as: "not a book for children or young persons [...] not a book for fools, or even for quite ordinary people.". Though actually quite a light read, and written in a not dissimilar vein to the didactic mystical interludes with which the occult novels of Dennis Wheatley are peppered, albeit in a more florid style. Not an uncommon title, however this is a well-preserved copy of the first edition, which once graced Ransome's own shelves.

£60

19. **De Gourmont, Remy (translated by Arthur Ransome). A Night in the Luxembourg.**

London: Stephen Swift and Co Limited, 1912.

First edition. 221 pages + 8 of ads. Presentation Copy, stamped as such to the title page. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's hardwearing dark blue quarter cloth, over slightly smoother and lighter blue cloth covered boards, both lettered in gilt, the cloth is slightly bumped and rubbed, with minor marks. The text block is slightly foxed, marked and age toned, with some passages highlighted in pencil. A notable early work by Ransome, who was friends with De Gourmont, and greatly admired his work. The Appendix to the rear is Ransome's essay on De Gourmont, which previously appeared in the Fortnightly Review. A supernatural, seemingly pagan being descends to earth, and converses on matters philosophical, metaphysical and sensual, detailing the errors of humankind over the centuries, with an interesting framing narrative involving a mysterious death and a discovered manuscript. Described by Ransome in his Translator's Preface as: "not a book for children or young persons [...] not a book for fools, or even for quite ordinary people.". Though actually quite a light read, and written in a not dissimilar vein to the didactic mystical interludes with which the occult novels of Dennis Wheatley are peppered, albeit in a more florid style.



£35

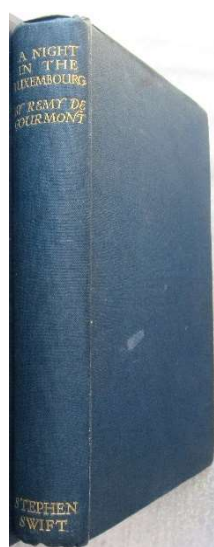
20. **De Gourmont, Remy (translated by Arthur Ransome). A Night in the Luxembourg.**

London: Stephen Swift and Co Limited, 1912.

First edition. 221 pages + 8 of ads. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's blue cloth, lettered in gilt, the cloth is slightly bumped, rubbed and marked, and the spine is slightly cocked. The text block is slightly foxed, marked and age toned, with ink ownership inscriptions to the front pastedown and title page. The binding varying from the three noted by Hammond, the cloth cheaper than that which appears on most copies, with an alternative publisher's imprint to the lower spine. possibly indicating a remainder copy, or just representative of the general disarray at the company in 1912 as Charles Granville's affairs ran out of control, and he fled charges of embezzlement and bigamy. A notable early work by Ransome, who was friends with De Gourmont, and greatly admired his work. The Appendix to the rear is Ransome's essay on De Gourmont, which previously appeared in the Fortnightly Review. A supernatural, seemingly pagan being descends to earth, and converses on matters philosophical, metaphysical and sensual, detailing the errors of humankind over the centuries, with an interesting framing narrative involving a mysterious death and a discovered manuscript. Described by Ransome in his

Translator's Preface as: "not a book for children or young persons [...] not a book for fools, or even for quite ordinary people.". Though actually quite a light read, and written in a not dissimilar vein to the didactic mystical interludes with which the occult novels of Dennis Wheatley are peppered, albeit in a more florid style.

£30

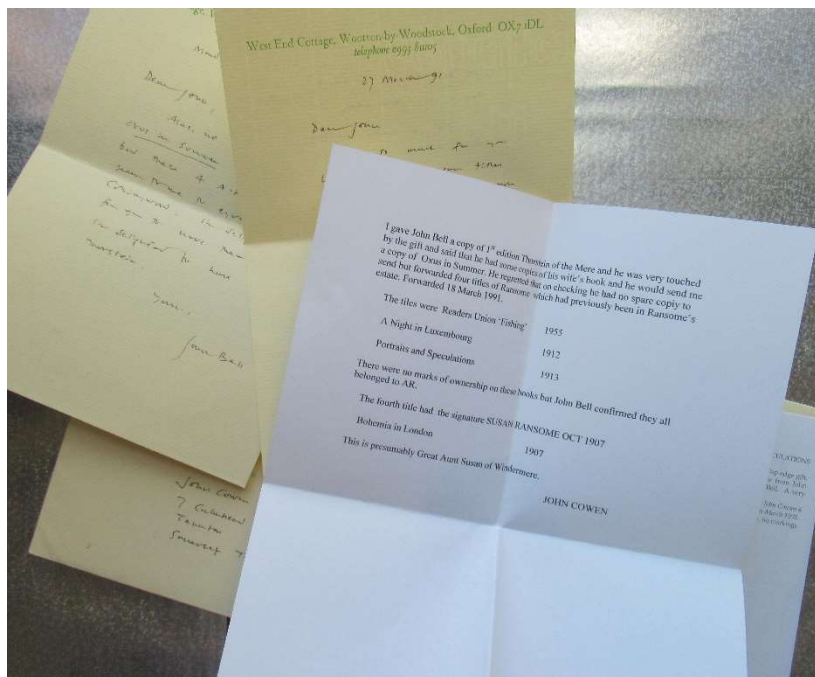


21. Ransome, Arthur. Portraits and Speculations.

London: Macmillan and Co., Limited, 1913.

First edition. 225 pages. With some interesting provenance, from the estate of John Bell (1922-2008), one of Ransome's literary executors, with two handwritten letters from Bell loosely inserted, confirming that: "the Ransome titles all belonged to AR, though there are I think no markings.", and a further printed note from the recipient of Bell's letter, John Cowen, the notable Ransome collector, confirming that he received this title from Bell, along with three others, in exchange for a first edition of 'Thorstein of the Mere'. The book is reasonably firmly bound in the publisher's black cloth, lettered in tarnished gilt to the spine, the boards are quite marked and rubbed, the spine is sunned and the extremities are bumped, with some small tears to the cloth. The text block, with gilt to the top edges, is slightly foxed, marked and age toned. A collection of critical essays by Ransome, including one on Friedrich Nietzsche. It was originally intended to have been published by Stephen Swift, prior to Charles Granville's sudden flight from charges of embezzlement and bigamy. The first edition is quite uncommon and this, though not externally all that prepossessing, is an excellent association copy which once graced Ransome's own shelves.

£150



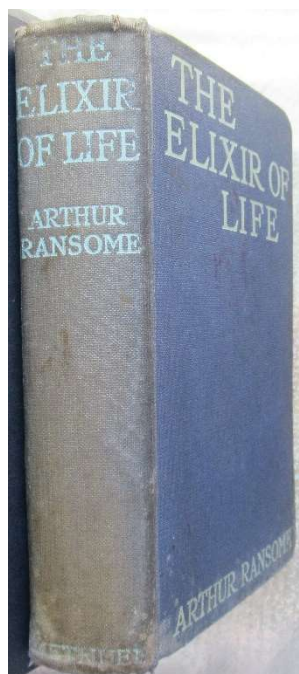
22. Ransome, Arthur. The Elixir of Life.

London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1915.

First edition. 312 pages + 4 of ads and a 31-page catalogue dated 8th May 1915. The book is reasonably firmly bound in the publisher's blue cloth, lettered in lighter blue, the cloth is marked and rubbed, the spine is sunned and cocked, the rear hinge is tender, the extremities are bumped and there are minor tears to the cloth. The text block is age browned, slightly marked and foxed, with numerous dog-eared page corners and creasing to some page edges. Formerly the property of notable author and weird fiction and horror anthologist, Peter Haining, with his bookplate to the front pastedown. Haining's bookplate is laid on the centre of another much older decorative bookplate from 1916, which in turn looks to have been pasted over another even older, this combined with the condition of the book and a single faint reference stamp to the rear pastedown would tend to indicate that it was originally a circulating library copy. Loosely inserted is a copy letter from one of Ransome's literary-executors, Rupert Hart-Davis, sent to Ernest Hecht of the Souvenir Press, dated 1981 and regarding a possible reprint of 'The Elixir of Life', with a note to the top that a copy should be sent to Haining. This, presumably the copy of the book which was to be the basis of the new edition, a project which seems never to have come to

fruition as there are no records of a 1980s reprint. A historical Gothic horror novel, with philosophical digressions, regarding a strange, evil seeming yet compelling man, who lures a young man, adrift in the world, to his isolated house, and then reveals to him the dark secret of immortality. It was Ransome's first published novel, which he appropriately enough dedicated to his mother. According to Hammond, one of 1200 copies bound by the publisher, out of a print run of 1500, the remaining 300 "wasted". This, not an especially well-preserved example, though with some interesting provenance by way of compensation.

£385

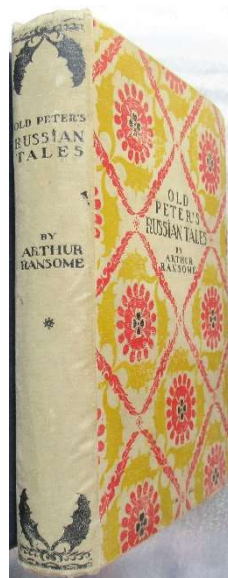


23. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Dmitri Mitrokhin). Old Peter's Russian Tales.**

New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company, 1917.

First U.S. edition. 334 pages + 7 colour illustrated plates. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's cream cloth, lettered and decorated in red, yellow and black, with distinctive floral endpapers front and rear, the boards are somewhat toned, grubby and rubbed, with bumping to the extremities. The text block is age toned and slightly marked, with minor foxing and cracking at points, also a neatly written gift inscription in ink to the verso of the frontispiece. The uncommon first American edition of Ransome's excellent collection of Russian folklore tales, reworked for an English audience. Which, other than the cancel title page, is as the English first edition published the year before, with "Printed in Great Britain" at the foot of the final page.

£100

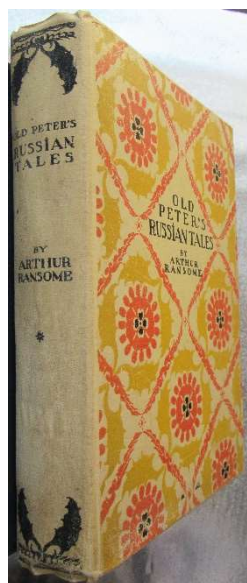


24. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Dmitri Mitrokhin). Old Peter's Russian Tales.**

London: T. C. & E. C. Jack / Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd, 1920.

Reprint. Undated, but looks circa 1920, shortly after Nelson took over the rights. 334 pages + 7 colour illustrated plates. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's cream cloth, lettered and decorated in red, yellow and black, with distinctive floral endpapers front and rear, the boards are somewhat toned, rubbed and slightly marked, with bumping to the extremities. The text block is foxed, slightly marked and age toned. An early edition of Ransome's excellent collection of Russian folklore tales, reworked for an English audience.

£50

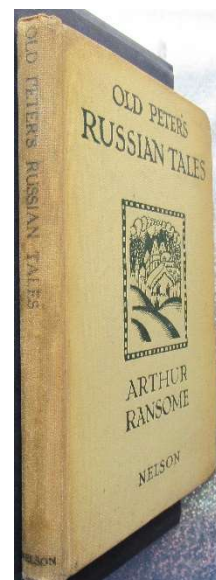


25. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Dmitri Mitrokhin). Old Peter's Russian Tales (First Series).**

London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd, 1921.

New edition, reprint. 92 pages. Undated but probably 1921 or 1934. The book is quite firmly bound in the publisher's cream coloured cloth, lettered and decorated in dark green, with grey endpapers front and rear, the boards are somewhat rubbed and marked, more so to the spine, with bumping to the extremities. The text is slightly foxed, age toned, marked and dusty. A rare and interesting edition, noted as: "adapted for schools" on the Second and Third series, issued three times according to Hammond, in 1918, 1921 and 1934, and in three volumes or series. It was a significantly altered edition, and presumably not by Ransome, with editorial changes to the language, and additions. The stories are simplified, presumably to make them accessible for very young children in the first year or two of school, probably intended to be read by the teacher and as a general aid to learning. This is quite a well-preserved example considering its original purpose.

£40



26. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Dmitri Mitrokhin). Old Peter's Russian Tales Second Series.**

London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd, 1921.

New edition, reprint. 94 pages. Undated but probably 1921 or 1934. The book is quite firmly bound in the publisher's red cloth, lettered and decorated in black, with grey endpapers front and rear, the boards are rubbed and marked, with slight bumping to the extremities. The text is slightly age toned, marked and dusty.

A rare and interesting edition: "adapted for schools", issued three times according to Hammond, in 1918, 1921 and 1934, and in three volumes or series. It was a significantly altered edition, and presumably not by Ransome, his introductory note becomes written by Old Peter himself, with editorial changes to the language, and additions. The stories themselves are also simplified, the anonymous editor deciding to substitute English currency for Russian for instance, shillings rather than roubles. Presumably then, intended for very young children in the first year or two of school, probably intended to be read by the teacher, and as a general aid to learning about things such as money. This, a surprisingly well-preserved example considering its original purpose.

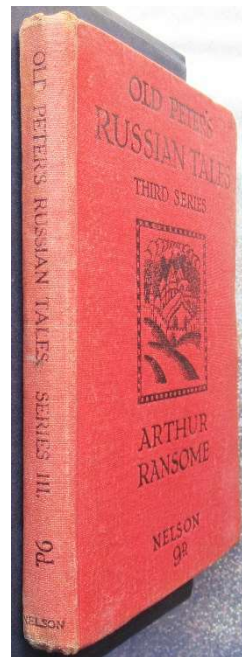
£40

27. Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Dmitri Mitrokhin). Old Peter's Russian Tales Third Series.

London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd, 1918.

New edition, likely first thus. Undated but circa 1918 112 pages. The book is reasonably firmly bound in the publisher's red cloth, lettered and decorated in black, the boards are somewhat rubbed, bumped and faded, with minor marks. The text block is quite heavily age browned, a stamp to the front endpaper indicates that it was once property of the 'English Speaking Library' at the British Embassy in Berne, the pages are slightly marked and stained. A rare and interesting edition: "adapted for schools", issued three times according to Hammond, in 1918, 1921 and 1934, and in three volumes or series. This judging from the poor paper quality is the original 1918 issue. It was a significantly altered edition, and presumably not by Ransome, each story has an added introduction by Old Peter, for instance 'The Three Men of Power' begins with Peter being prompted to tell the tale to calm the children because there is a storm raging outside. The language of the stories themselves is also simplified, e.g. the anonymous editor substitutes lamps for lanterns. Presumably then, intended for very young children in the first year or two of school, probably to be read by the teacher and as a general aid to learning.

£40

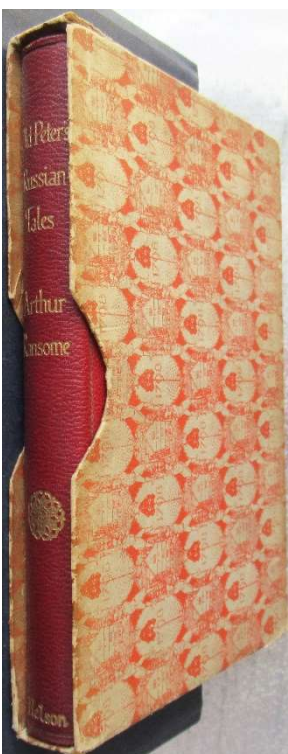


28. Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Dmitri Mitrokhin). Old Peter's Russian Tales.

London: Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd, 1935.

Reprint, first thus. 309 pages + 1 of ads. A small pocket-sized edition, firmly bound in the publisher's full red leather binding, lettered and decorated in gilt to the spine, the leather is slightly marked and rubbed and the spine is age toned. The text block is lightly age toned, there are some light spots of foxing, minor marks and a couple of dog-eared corners. Remarkably, the book retains its original protective card slipcase, covered in the publisher's red patterned 1798 paper, it is toned, marked, bumped, rubbed and faded, and beginning to split at points. Ransome's excellent and highly successful collection of Russian folklore tales, reworked for an English audience. Its first appearance in this format and this a remarkably well-preserved example, looking to have been little read.

£35



29. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Dmitri Mitrokhin). Old Peter's Russian Tales.**

London: Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd, 1937.

Reprint. 309 pages + 1 of ads. A small pocket-sized edition, firmly bound in the publisher's red cloth, lettered in gilt to the spine, the boards are lightly marked and rubbed, and the extremities slightly bumped. The text block is a little age toned, there are some light spots of foxing, minor marks and a neatly written ink ownership inscription to the front endpaper, also a small bookseller's label to the front pastedown. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly rubbed and marked, the spine is sunned and there are some small chips and closed tears to the edges, a couple repaired to the reverse with small pieces of thin paper archival tape. Ransome's excellent and highly successful collection of Russian folklore tales, reworked for an English audience. Uncommon in the dust jacket.

£30

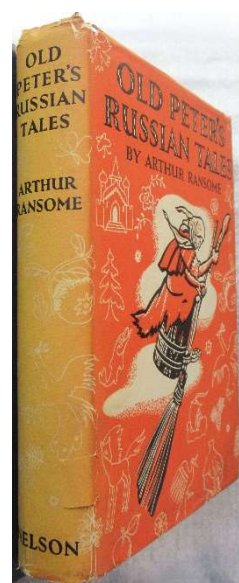


30. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Dmitri Mitrokhin). Old Peter's Russian Tales.**

London: Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd, 1938.

New edition. 334 pages + 7 colour illustrated plates. With a new note by the author. The book is firmly bound in quarter light brown cloth, lettered in gilt, over dark grey paper covered boards, the boards are lightly marked and the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly toned and marked with faint spots of foxing, and a neatly written name in blue pencil (twice) to the front endpaper. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly grubby, marked and rubbed, with small chips and closed tears to the edges, some repaired with thin paper archival tape to the reverse, the spine is sunned.

£30

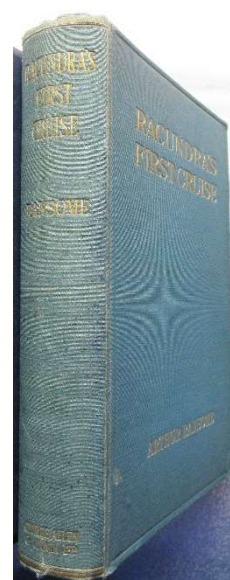


31. **Ransome, Arthur. "Racundra's" First Cruise.**

London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1923.

First edition. 217 pages + 17 black and white illustrated plates, 3 charts and 6 of ads. The book is reasonably firmly bound in the publisher's blue cloth, lettered in gilt, the cloth is marked, the extremities are bumped and rubbed and the spine is sunned. The text block is age toned, slightly foxed and marked, with cracking at points, a small bookseller's label to the front pastedown, short closed tears with associated creasing to a few page edges and some pencil notes to the rear pastedown. An important early Ransome title and a classic of nautical travel writing, describing a voyage in a small boat, which he had commissioned himself, accompanied by his future wife, the former private secretary to Leon Trotsky, and on old sailor who formed the basis for two characters in the Swallows and Amazons series, Peter Duck and Simon, Jim Woodall's mate aboard the Norfolk Broad Wherry Sir Garnet.

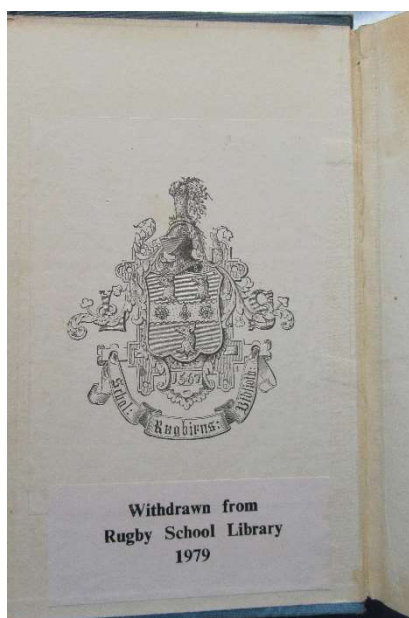
£35



32. **Ransome, Arthur. "Racundra's" First Cruise.**

London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1923.

First edition. 217 pages + 17 black and white illustrated plates, 3 charts and 6 of ads. Formerly the property of Rugby School, Ransome's alma mater, with their rather handsome armorial bookplate to the front pastedown, below which is a printed label reading: "Withdrawn from Rugby School Library 1979", and an oval stamp to the title page indicating that it was once in the Temple Reading Room at the school. The book is



reasonably firmly bound in the publisher's blue cloth, lettered in gilt, the cloth is quite heavily marked, the extremities are bumped and rubbed, with loss at the top of the spine and other small tears, also signs of a removed label to the lower spine. The text block is age toned, slightly foxed and marked, with cracking at points, including the rear gutter where the mull is showing. An important early Ransome title and a classic of nautical travel writing, describing a voyage in a small boat, which he had commissioned himself, accompanied by his future wife, the former private secretary to Leon Trotsky, and an old sailor who formed the basis for two characters in the Swallows and Amazons series, Peter Duck and Simon, Jim Woodall's mate aboard the Norfolk Broad Wherry Sir Garnet. Not an attractive copy from the perspective of condition, but of some interest for the association with Rugby school, where doubtless over the decades many pupils, who would themselves go on to have remarkable careers, derived inspiration from the adventures of one of their illustrious alumni.

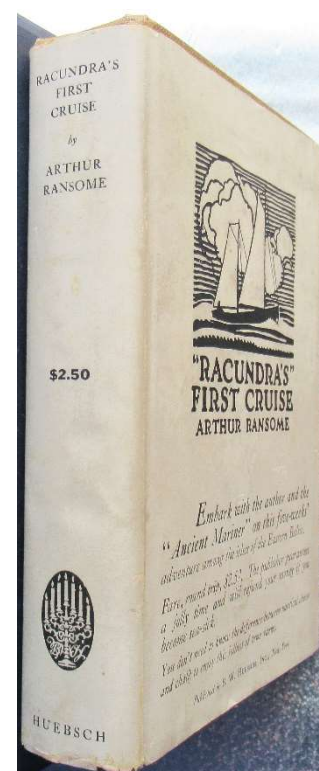
£45

33. **Ransome, Arthur. "Racundra's" First Cruise.**

New York: B. W. Huebsch, Inc., 1923.

First U.S. edition. 258 pages + 16 black and white illustrated plates and 3 charts. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's light brown cloth, lettered and illustrated in dark green, Hammond's second binding variant, no priority established, the boards are lightly marked and rubbed, with slight bumping to the extremities. The text block is age toned, with minor marks and slight cracking at points. The dust jacket is the original, printed rather optimistically on faint pink paper, lettered and illustrated in black, the paper has largely faded to an off-white, aside from to the flaps and the reverse, it is somewhat grubby, with a few minor chips and closed tears to the edges. An important early Ransome title and a classic of nautical travel writing. The American edition differing quite considerably from its British counterpart, smaller, with the text reset, some photographs added, others omitted, and at least one of the charts re-drawn. This, a remarkably well-preserved copy, the dust jacket in particular a remarkable survival, having navigated just over a century almost entirely intact.

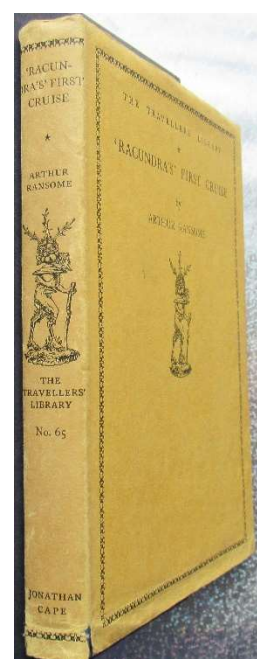
£230



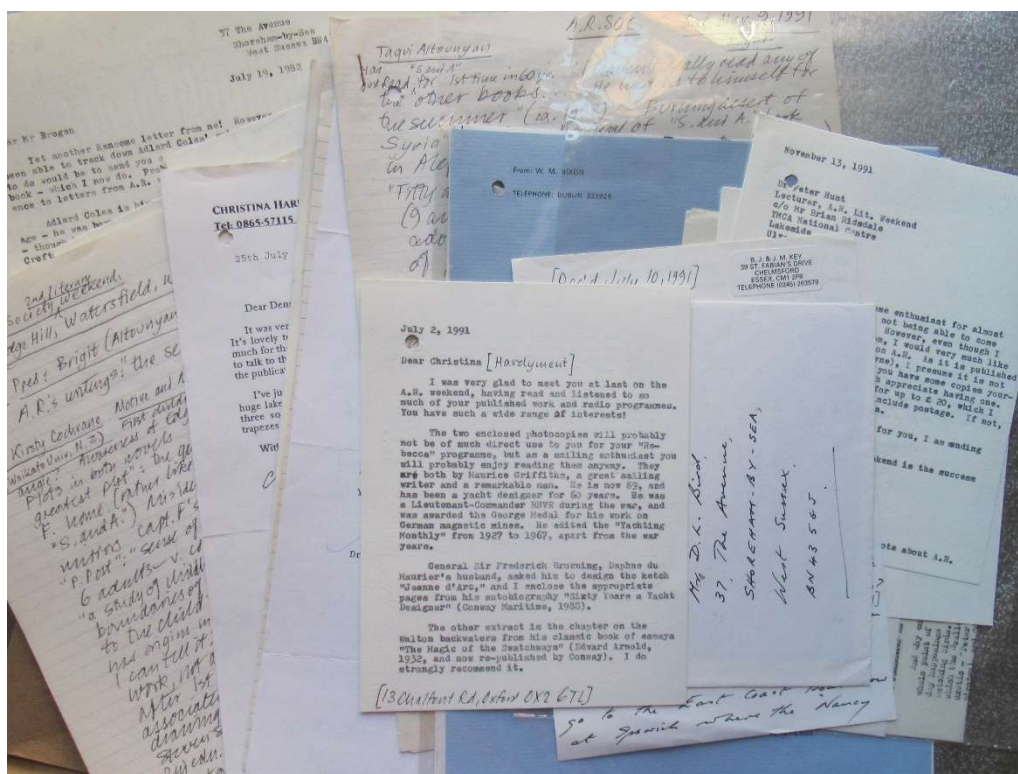
34. **Ransome, Arthur. "Racundra's" First Cruise.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1927.

New edition. 224 pages + 16-page publisher's catalogue, listing Travellers' Library titles to No. 72, this being No. 65, though all were published in 1927. The book is firmly bound in quite smooth blue cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt to the spine, the extremities are lightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is lightly marked and age toned, with faint spots of foxing. The dust jacket, printed on cream-coloured paper lettered and decorated in black, is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly marked and rubbed, with minor chips and closed tears to the edges. Hammond notes: "4000 copies printed. The publisher's records indicate that the first delivery of bound copies was made on 27 October (advance copies) and 7 November (100 copies). [It] was then bound in small lots, 50 or 100 copies, through October 1943.". The drip feed of copies over 16 years means considerable variation in bindings and dust jackets. This copy conforms to Hammond's inspected example and seems certain to be one of the earliest issues, while copies in the fairly common illustrated blue and cream dust jacket could safely be designated as mid-1930s issues onwards, as that became the standard



£200

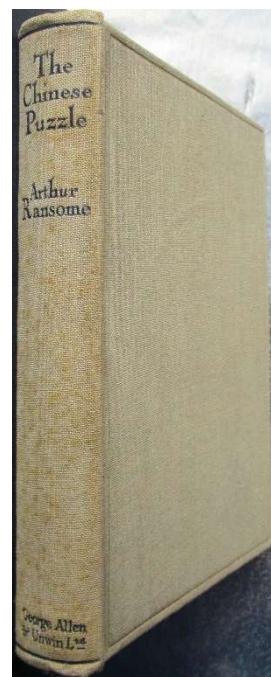


37. **Ransome, Arthur (Foreword by David Lloyd George). The Chinese Puzzle.**

London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1927.

First edition. 189 pages + colophon. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's brownish grey coloured cloth, lettered and decorated in dark blue to the spine, the cloth is slightly marked and foxed, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed and the boards a trifle bowed. The text block is slightly foxed, marked and age toned. Ransome's account of the beginnings of civil war and communist revolution in China, based in part on his own first-hand experiences in the country from late-1926 until early 1927. It was printed in quite large numbers, but delays in publication meant that events had moved on so much in the meantime, that the public were uninterested and sales were poor. It is now quite an uncommon title, probably indicating a good number were pulped or lost at the start of WW2, as it is quite a well-made book and few would have fallen to pieces due to being over-read.

£50

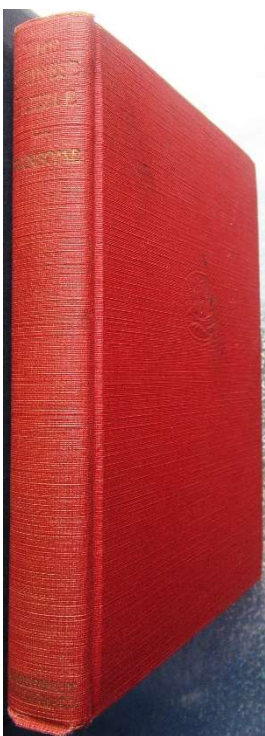


38. **Ransome, Arthur (Foreword by David Lloyd George). The Chinese Puzzle.**

Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1927.

First U.S. edition. 189 pages. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's red cloth, lettered and decorated in tarnished gilt and blind, the cloth is somewhat marked and rubbed, with bumping and slight fraying at the extremities. The text block is age toned, slightly marked and dusty. Ransome's account of the beginnings of civil war and communist revolution in China, based in part on his own first-hand experiences in the country from late-1926 until early 1927. It was printed in quite large numbers, but delays in publication meant that events had moved on so much in the meantime, that the public were uninterested, as indeed were the U.S. publishers who, according to Hammond: "reduced their order of imported sheets by half". It is unsurprisingly fairly uncommon.

£35

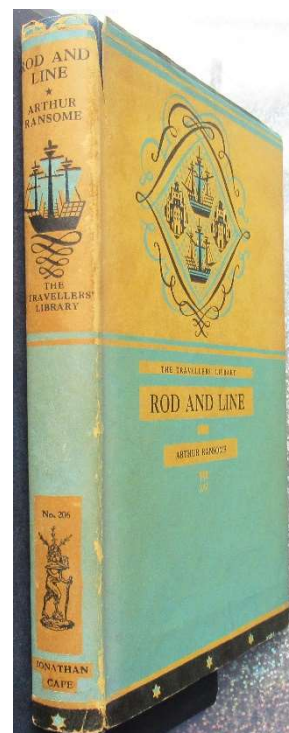


39. **Ransome, Arthur. Rod and Line.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1935.

New edition. 286 pages + 40-page publisher's catalogue. The book is firmly bound in lightly marked blue cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt to the spine, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly foxed, marked and age toned, with a neatly written ink gift inscription to the front endpaper, and below this the ownership inscription of the recipient. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is quite toned, marked and rubbed, more so to the spine, with small chips and short closed tears to the edges. Ransome's highly successful and much loved contribution to fishing literature, this a cheap pocket-sized edition, published as part of Cape's Travellers' Library series, and quite uncommon, particularly in the dust jacket.

£40



40. **Ransome, Arthur (illustrated by Clifford Webb). Swallows and Amazons.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1931.

New illustrated edition. 350 pages + 28 black and white illustrated plates. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's greenish blue cloth, lettered in gilt, the boards are lightly marked and rubbed, with patchy fading and slight bumping to the extremities. The text block is slightly toned and foxed, with minor marks. A rather attractive school prize plate from June 1932 to the first blank page gives the book some interesting provenance, indicating that its first owner was a child in Shanghai, a P. Sopher at the 'Shanghai Municipal Council Junior School for Boys'.

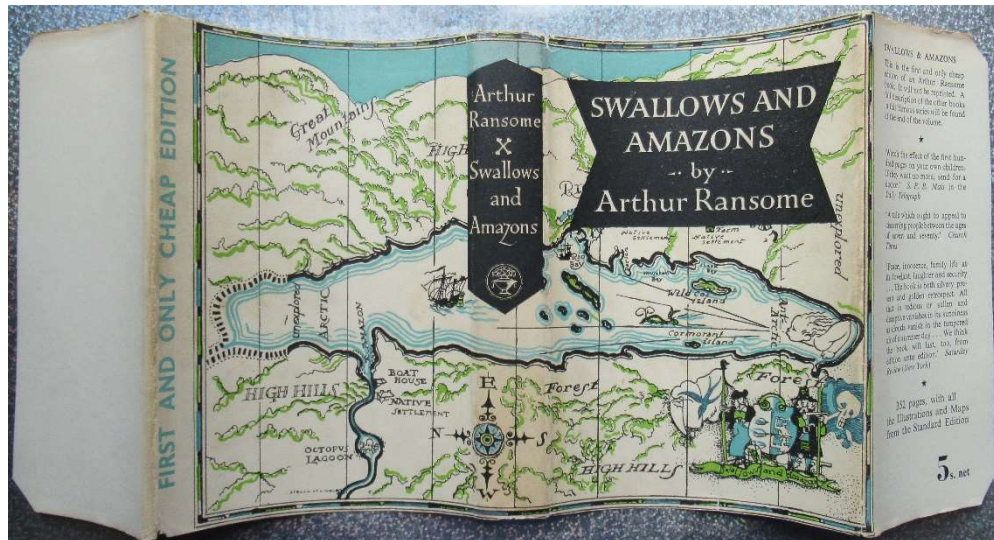
£60

41. **Ransome, Arthur. Swallows and Amazons.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1953.

New edition. 352 pages. Described as the: "First and only Cheap Edition". The book is firmly bound in dark green cloth, lettered in gilt to the spine, the extremities are slightly bumped, rubbed and faded. The text block is age toned with minor marks. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is lightly marked and age toned, with a few minor chips and short closed tears to the edges. Though not an uncommon edition, it is due to the deliberately cheap nature of production difficult to find in really nice condition, this copy is about as good as they tend to come.

£70

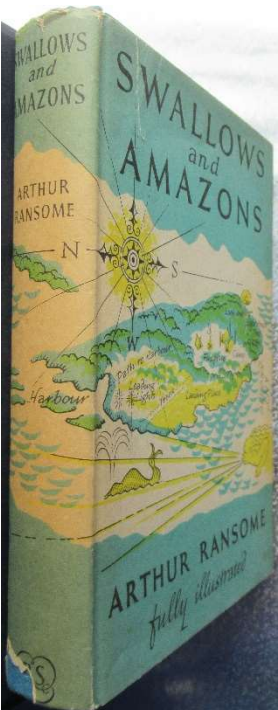


42. **Ransome, Arthur. Swallows and Amazons.**

London: The Reprint Society Limited, 1958.

New edition. 351 pages. The book is firmly bound in blue cloth, lettered and strikingly illustrated in silver, the extremities are lightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly marked and age toned, with some off-setting to the map endpapers. The dust jacket is the original, it is slightly age toned, marked and rubbed, with a small area of loss to the lower left spine and a few other minor chips and short closed tears to the edges. A surprisingly uncommon and rather attractive edition, produced to a much higher standard than most Reprint Society publications, which Hammond posits may be because it was printed by Jonathan Cape along with their own reset 1958 edition. This is quite a well-preserved copy.

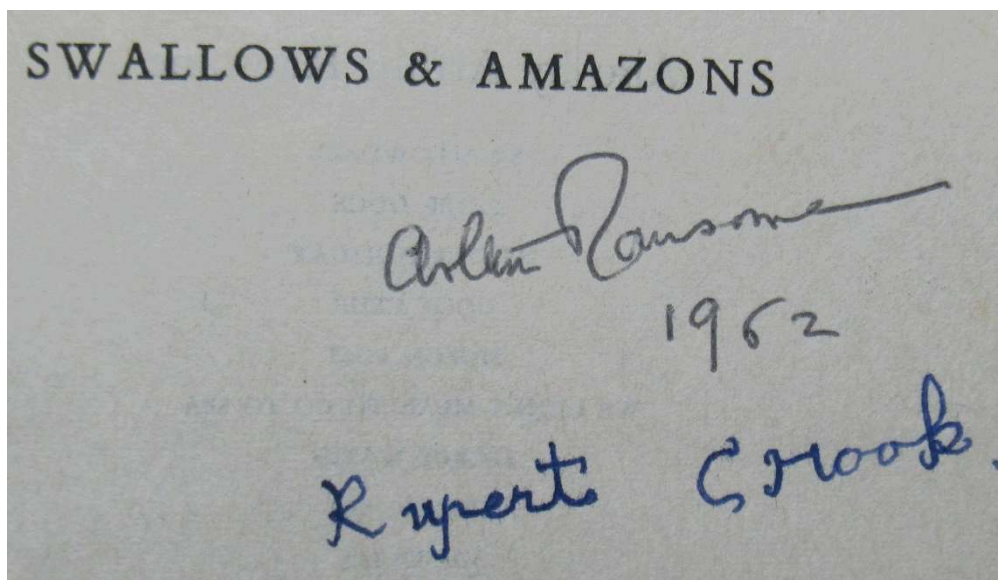
£50



43. **Ransome, Arthur. Swallows and Amazons.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1960.

A reprint of the reset 1958 edition. 351 pages. Signed and dated by the author in black ink to the half-title page: "Arthur Ransome 1962". The book is firmly bound in lightly marked and rubbed dark green cloth, lettered in gilt and blind, the extremities are slightly bumped. The text block is age browned, quite foxed and slightly marked, the presumed recipient of the book, a Rupert Crook has added his name in blue ink below Ransome's inscription. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is age toned, slightly rubbed, marked and foxed, with minor chips and short closed tears to the edges, the original owner has discretely stamped R. Crook to the upper panel. An uncommon signature from Ransome later in his life, which pleasingly he has dated, on his best-loved and most famous title.



£400

44. **Ransome, Arthur. Swallows and Amazons.**

London: Book Club Associates, 1977.

New edition. 351 pages. The book is firmly bound in lightly rubbed and slightly faded green cloth, lettered in gilt and blind, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is age browned and slightly marked, with a neatly written ink gift inscription to the verso of the front endpaper. The dust jacket is the original, it is slightly marked, toned and rubbed, with some minor nicks to the edges. A surprisingly rare edition and better produced than most Book Club publications.

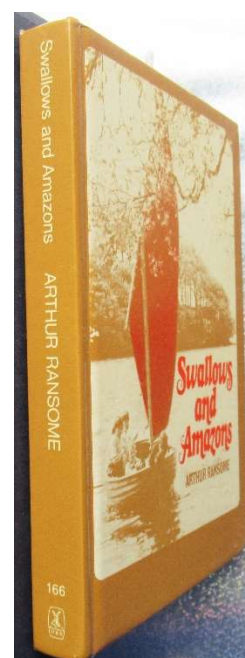
£30

45. **Ransome, Arthur. Swallows and Amazons.**

London: Heinemann Educational Books, 1984.

Reprint. 351 pages + 2 of ads. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's illustrated glazed boards, showing a still from the 1974 film, the boards are lightly rubbed and marked. The text block is slightly foxed and age toned, with minor marks and a neatly written ink gift inscription to the front endpaper. An edition first printed in 1972 in Heinemann's New Windmill Series, though reprinted a number of times it is quite rare in anything approaching collectable condition, as most seemed to have been destined for school libraries.

£30



Also by Arthur Ransome

RACUNDRA'S FIRST CRUISE
OLD PETER'S RUSSIAN TALES
SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS

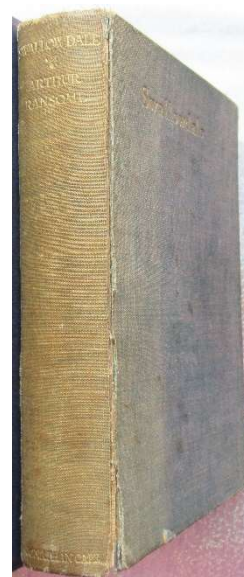
For the Kelsalls from the Ransomes
with particular thanks for the
Parrot's contribution to the book,
to say nothing of Desmond's & Richard's.
Nov. 24. 1931.

46. **Ransome, Arthur**
(illustrated by Clifford Webb).
Swallowdale.

London: Jonathan Cape, 1931.

First edition. 453 pages + 1 of ads. Inscribed by the author to the verso of the half-title page: "For the Kelsalls from the Ransomes, with particular thanks for the Parrot's contribution to the book, to say nothing of Desmond's & Richard's, Nov. 2. 1931". The Kelsall family lived near the Ransomes and the two families were friends. The Kelsalls made several contributions to the plots of the Swallows and Amazons novels: a code system was developed between the two households, which was used in 'Winter Holiday'. The two Kelsall children, Dick and Desmond

served as models for some of the drawings, and Christina Hardyment quotes them as saying: "we made the ship's papers for Swallowdale. We had a parrot, a grey and red one. We put two pieces of paper round a broomhandle, and covered one of them with a mixture of soot and paraffin. Then we got the parrot to grip first the black one and then the white one with its claws" (Arthur Ransome and Captain Flint's Trunk, 1984). Desmond Kelsall also notes that after reading Swallows and Amazons Ransome asked him what he thought, to which he responded: that he: "thought John was too good. He ought to get over-confident and do something really stupid – like wrecking Swallow.". The book is firmly bound in the publisher's greenish blue cloth, lettered in gilt, it is in fairly poor shape externally, the hinges are tender and the cloth is split with the mull showing beneath, otherwise the boards are slightly marked and faded, more so to the spine, with a few other knocks and tears to the cloth. The text block is slightly foxed and age toned, with occasional marks throughout, and there has been a tea spillage across pages 416 and 417. The book is preserved in a green cloth covered drop-back box, lettered in gilt to the edge, the box is lightly rubbed and marked. A remarkable association copy, inscribed on the day which Ransome noted in his diary as publication day, though according to the BL their copy arrived on October 24th, so presumably either November 2nd was the day on which Ransome received his complimentary copies, or the BL received an advance copy in the week prior to publication.



£3,850

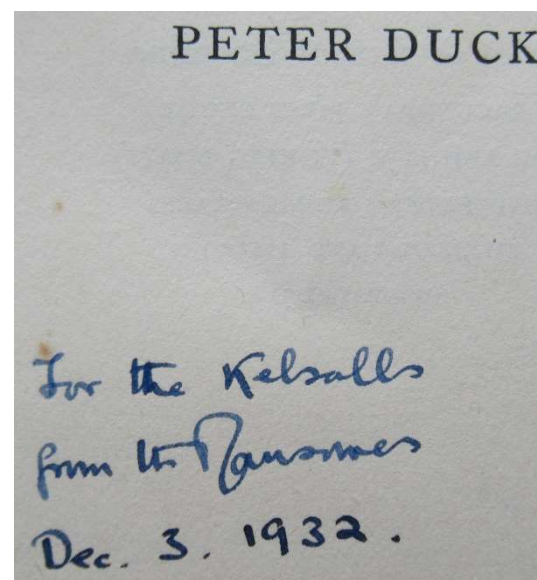
47. **Ransome, Arthur. Peter Duck.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1932.

First edition. 432 pages + 2 of ads. Inscribed by the author to the half-title page: "For the Kelsalls from the Ransomes Dec. 3. 1932.". The Kelsall family lived near the Ransomes and the two families were friends. The Kelsalls made several contributions to the plots of the Swallows and Amazons novels: a code system was developed between the two households, which was used in 'Winter Holiday'. The two Kelsall children, Dick and Desmond served as models for some of Ransome's drawings (including those in Peter Duck), and

contributed directly to the creation of 'Swallowdale'. The book is quite firmly bound in the publisher's dark green cloth, lettered in gilt, the cloth is slightly marked and rubbed, the extremities are bumped, the spine is slightly sunned and the cloth is partially split along approximately half of the rear hinge. The text block is somewhat marked, stained, foxed and age toned, with some creased or dog-eared page corners. The book has been supplied at some point with a replacement fourth impression jacket, presumably for protection, which is tatty, rubbed, marked and chipped. The book is preserved in a green cloth covered drop-back box, lettered in gilt to the edge, the box is lightly rubbed and marked. An excellent association copy of Ransome's Treasure Island inspired meta-fictional masterpiece.

£2,800



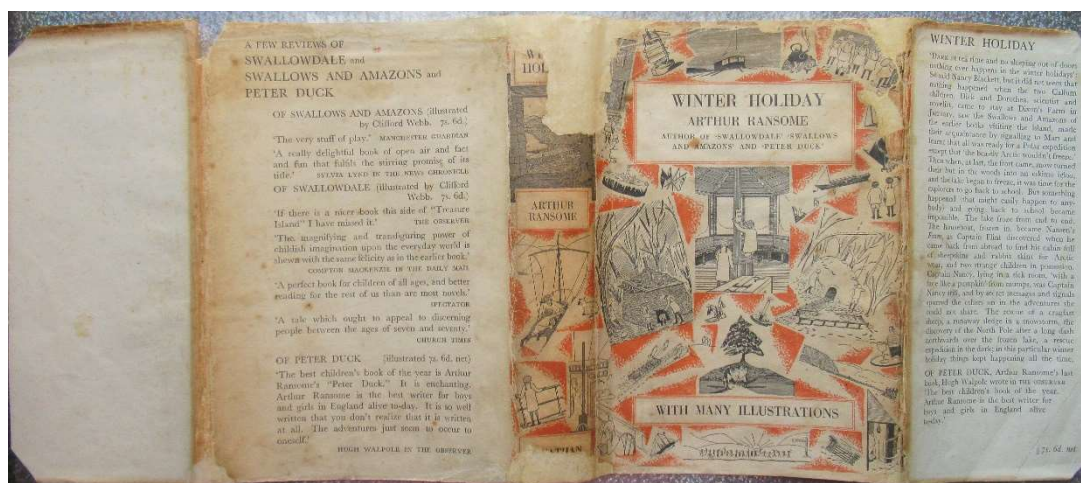
48. **Ransome, Arthur. Winter Holiday.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1933.

First edition. 360 pages. Signed by Ransome in ink to the half-title page, above one of his small signature drawings of a sailing dinghy. Partially erased above this is the ownership inscription of S. Morgan, this being the son of Stanley Morgan, of the Newcastle bookseller's Mawson, Swan and Morgan, who arranged for Ransome to sign several books for his children. The book is bound in lightly marked and rubbed dark green cloth, lettered in gilt and blind, the extremities are

slightly bumped. The text block is slightly foxed, marked, and age toned, it has been well read, and is cracked quite dramatically at points, with a couple of pages beginning to work loose and some gatherings protruding slightly, there are closed tears to the tops of pages 357-360, with no loss of text. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is quite rubbed, marked, foxed and toned, with quite significant loss to the edges, it has been quite neatly if rudimentarily conserved using pieces of similarly toned gummed on paper. The fourth title in the series, which sees the introduction of the 'Ds', who despite their background differing somewhat from the Swallows and Amazons ("people oughtn't to be allowed to be bought up in towns"), soon manage to carve their own niches: Dick as resident scientist, geologist and astronomer, and Dorothea, with her romantic flights of fancy, as a natural foil for Titty. Ransome also paying homage to the polar explorers of his youth, in particular Nansen, who is referenced regularly. Signed copies of the first edition are uncommon.

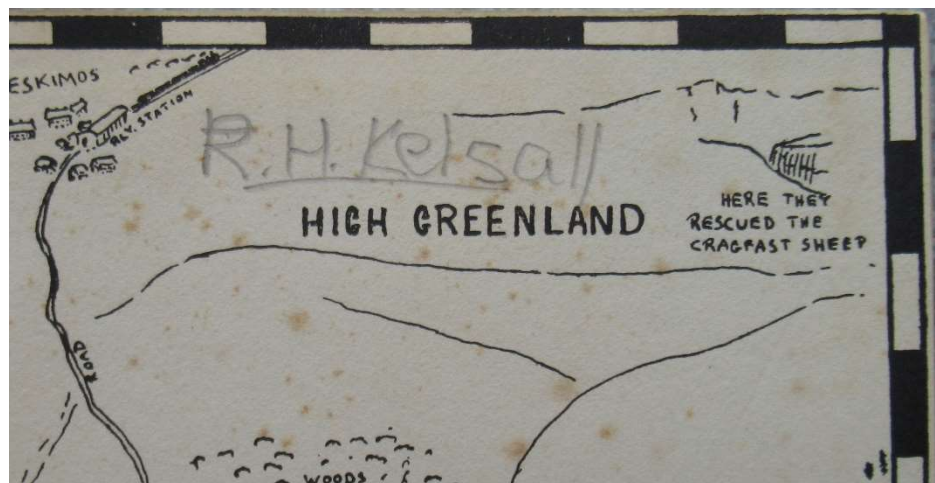
£1,300



49. **Ransome, Arthur. Winter Holiday.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1933.

First edition. 360 pages. Formerly owned by Richard [Dick] Kelsall (1922-2015), with his original pencil ownership inscription to the front endpaper, looking to have been made while he was a child, and his later ink signature to the half-title page. The Kelsall family lived near the Ransomes and the two families were friends. The Kelsalls made several notable contributions to the plots of the Swallows and Amazons novels: a code system was developed between the two households, thought to have been substantially developed by Colonel



Thomas Edward Kelsall (1873-1954), which was used in 'Winter Holiday'. The two Kelsall children, Dick and Desmond served as models for some of Ransome's drawings, including for Winter Holiday. and they contributed directly to the creation of 'Swallowdale'. The book is quite firmly bound in lightly marked and somewhat rubbed dark green cloth, lettered in gilt and blind, the extremities are bumped and rubbed. The text block is age toned, slightly marked and foxed. The book comes with a supplied dust jacket from a fourth impression, which is slightly toned, rubbed and marked, with chips and short closed tears to the edges, it has been professionally conserved using similarly toned paper and presents quite well. A significant association copy of the fourth title in the series, which sees the introduction of the 'Ds', who despite their background differing somewhat from the Swallows and Amazons ("people oughtn't to be allowed to be bought up in towns"), soon manage to carve their own niches: Dick as resident scientist, geologist and astronomer, and Dorothea, with her romantic flights of fancy, as a natural foil for Titty.

£300



50. **Ransome, Arthur. Coot Club.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1934.

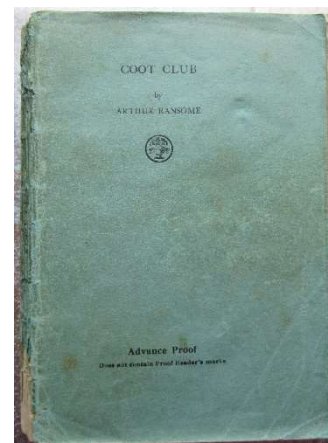
First edition. Advance Proof. 352 pages. Author's copy, with a casual presentation inscription from Ransome to the title page: "Early proof. Lots of howlers, besides which eight small pictures are missing, all of which are in the printed book.". There are 12 minor authorial corrections to the text, the longest an ink addition of 5 words to page 41, also a correction of "Stalham Station" to "Salhouse Station" on page 19, and 3 corrections of "Daisy" to "Teasel". All corrections had made it into the final book by the 1937 fourth impression, aside from that to page 41, which was only partially used. The recipient of the book was Dick Kelsall (Richard Hope Kelsall (1922-2015)), whose ownership inscription: "R. H. Kelsall 1934." Is in ink to the half-title page. The Kelsall family lived near the

Ransomes and the two families were friends. The Kelsalls made several notable contributions to the plots of the Swallows and Amazons novels: a code system was developed between the two households, which was

Early proof. Lots of howlers,
besides which eight small
pictures are missing; all of
which are in the printed book.

used in 'Winter Holiday'. The two Kelsall children, Dick and Desmond served as models for some of Ransome's drawings, and various incidents in Coot Club were inspired by their equivalents during a May 1933 cruise on the Broads taken by the Kelsall & Ransome families. The book is reasonably firmly bound in the publisher's blueish green wraps, lettered in black, the covers are quite rubbed, marked and creased, the spine strip has significant loss and chipping, and the spine is cocked. The text block is toned, slightly foxed and marked with creasing and minor nicks to page edges. The book is preserved in a dark green cloth covered slipcase, which is lightly rubbed. An excellent association copy, and a rare opportunity to own a book which gives a glimpse into Ransome's editorial process.

£2,600



"It's no good having one for plans with only half the club."
 "We told them, anyhow," said Starboard. "They ought to be here by now. They were well past Ranworth when we ~~passed~~ *saw* them ~~last~~." *on our way up.*
 "We won't wait tea for them," said Tom. "And it's pretty

51. **Ransome, Arthur. Pigeon Post.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1936.

First edition. 384 pages. Inscribed by the author to the half-title page: "Richard Kelsall from Arthur Ransome with many thanks for his most helpful collaboration. Nov. 10. 1935.". The recipient of the book was Dick Kelsall (Richard Hope Kelsall (1922-2015)). The Kelsall family lived near the Ransomes and the two families were friends. The Kelsalls made several notable contributions to the plots of the Swallows and Amazons novels: a code system was developed

between the two households, which was used in 'Winter Holiday'.

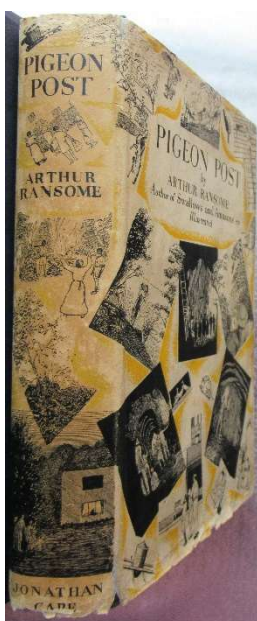
The two Kelsall children, Dick and Desmond served

as models for some of Ransome's drawings, and most pertinently in this instance, as referenced in the inscription, Dick Kelsall constructed a real version of the pigeon alarm invented by his namesake in the novel (shown in the illustration "How Dick made the pigeons ring a bell"). The book is quite firmly bound in somewhat marked, bumped and rubbed dark green cloth, lettered in gilt. The text block is age toned, slightly marked and foxed, with slight cracking at points. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is quite heavily rubbed, marked, torn and chipped, with archival tissue repairs to the reverse. It is preserved in a green cloth covered drop-back box, lettered in gilt to the edge, the box is lightly rubbed and marked. An important association copy of the sixth title in the series, in which Ransome coined the memorable phrase: "A pigeon a day keeps the natives away.".

£2,300


PIGEON POST

*Richard Kelsall from
 Arthur Ransome with
 many thanks for his
 most useful collaboration.
 Nov. 10. 1935.*



PIGEON POST

Arthur Ransome



52. **Ransome, Arthur. Pigeon Post.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1936.

Third impression. 384 pages. Signed by Ransome in ink to the half-title page, above one of his small signature drawings of a sailing dinghy. The book is firmly bound in dark green cloth, lettered in gilt and blind, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly age toned, with minor marks and spots of foxing. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly toned and marked, more so to the

spine, with minor nicks, short closed tears and creasing to the edges, to the reverse is a single thin paper archival tape repair. A very nice early signed copy of the sixth title in the series, in which Ransome coined the memorable phrase: "A pigeon a day keeps the natives away."

£400

53. **Ransome, Arthur. The Big Six.**

London: Jonathan Cape, 1952.

Reprint. Tenth impression. 391 pages. Inscribed by the author to the half-title page: "With best wishes from Arthur Ransome", above one of his small signature drawings of a sailing dinghy. The book is reasonably firmly bound in dark green cloth, lettered in gilt and blind, the cloth is quite marked, rubbed and bumped, with some small tears to the cloth and sunning to the spine. The text block is somewhat age toned, dusty and marked. The dust jacket has evidently been supplied by a former owner from another copy, oddly an earlier 1940s example, which does not list 'Great Northern', it is not price clipped, though it is slightly toned and rubbed, the spine is slightly faded and there are small chips and short closed tears to the edges. The ninth title in the series and the second set on the Norfolk Broads, further showing Ransome's versatility, as it is in part a well-constructed work of detective fiction, the Ds performing admirably, Dick applying Sherlockian techniques of scientific deduction, and Dorothea much ahead of her time in the role of criminal psychologist.

£200


54. **Altounyan, Taqui. Chimes From A Wooden Bell A Hundred Years in the Life of a Euro-Armenian Family.**

London: I. B. Tauris & Co. Ltd, 1990.

First edition. 189 pages. Inscribed by way of a slip tipped-onto the front endpaper: "To Rosemary, Taqui Altounyan 18.1.97", with the recipient's ownership inscription above. The book is firmly bound in red cloth, lettered in gilt to the spine, the extremities are bumped and rubbed, and the cloth is lightly marked. The text block is slightly marked and toned, with faint spots of foxing, in addition to the ownership inscription there is an annotation to the text on the first page: "Read at Karen Taylor's wedding, 30th May 1992". The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly

THE BIG SIX

With best wishes from
Arthur Ransome

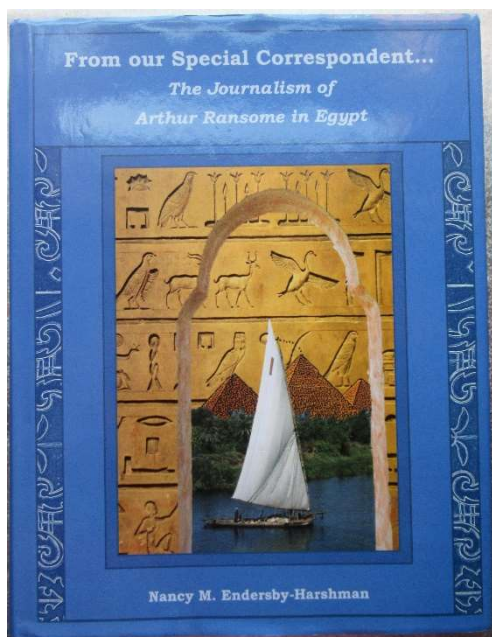


To Rosemary,
Taqui Altounyan

18.1.97

marked, the spine is faded and there is creasing to the edges. Altounyan's memoir, which includes accounts of her relationship with Arthur Ransome and his visit to stay with them in Aleppo while he was working on 'Peter Duck'.

£30



55. Endersby-Harshman, Nancy M. From Our Special Correspondent... The Journalism of Arthur Ransome in Egypt.

Amazon Publications, 2016.

First edition. 310 pages. The book is firmly bound in blue cloth, lettered in gilt to the spine, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block has a few light dusty marks. The dust jacket is a little rubbed and creased to the edges. Loosely inserted is a message from Amazon Publications to subscribers. A large well-produced book, describing Ransome's experiences in a volatile Egypt, having been sent there in 1924 to cover the political situation.

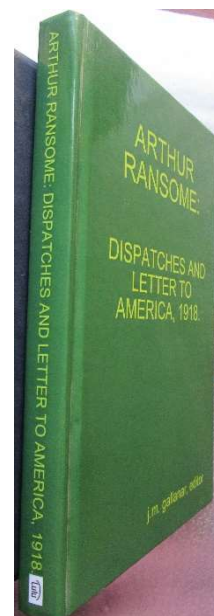
£35

56. Ransome, Arthur (edited by J. M. Gallanar). Dispatches and Letter to America, 1918..

2009.

Second edition. 65 pages of introduction and notes, then 213 pages. The book is firmly bound in laminated dark green boards, lettered in lighter green, the extremities are a little bumped and rubbed. The text block has a few light dusty marks. A seemingly self-published book, uncommon in hardback format.

£35



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