



BLACKWELL'S RARE BOOKS.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS: 20 RECENT ACQUISITIONS.

March, 2026.

1. Aberconway (Christabel) & Rex Whistler (Illustrator) *The Story of Mr Korah.* Illustrated by Rex Whistler. Michael Joseph, 1954, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece and 2 further plates all colour-printed and tipped in, 17 further line drawings to the text, pp. [42], 4to, original quarter red boards with grey sides, Whistler vignette stamped in gilt to upper board, backstrip lettered in gilt, dustjacket price-clipped and a little nicked, a few tiny specks to fore-margin of front and rear panels, backstrip panel a little sunned, very good **£100**

The author - née Macnaghten and the daughter of the Met's Assistant Commissioner during the Jack the Ripper case, Sir Melville Macnaghten - married the politician and horticulturalist Henry McLaren, who became the 2nd Baron Aberconway in 1934.

She was prodigiously well connected within both general and literary society, enjoying long friendships with H.G. Wells, W. Somerset Maugham, Siegfried Sassoon et al., as well as Aleister Crowley (whom she astonished, Louis Marlow recounted in 'Seven Friends', by failing to die at having read from a supposedly fatal 'enormous Magical Book', thereby pronounced one of 'the Elect') but the present work is in a lighter vein – collaborating with her friend, Rex Whistler, on a children's book.

2. Baden-Powell (Lord...of Gilwell [Robert]) *Lessons from the Varsity of Life.* With frontispiece in colour and 115 drawings in the text by the author, also 8 half-tone illustrations. C. Arthur Pearson, 1933, FIRST EDITION, spotting to half-title, a few spots to title-page and the odd outbreak within, pp. 320, 8vo, original blue cloth, lettered in blind to upper board and in gilt to backstrip, the latter faded, some fading to upper board, gently rubbed to extremities, edges spotted with contemporary gift inscription to flyleaf, buff dustjacket printed in brown with an illustration by the author to backstrip panel, some very light soiling, chipped at extremities, backstrip panel browned, price-clipped, very good **£325**

His autobiography, including an account of his military career and his founding of the Scout movement - told in didactic fashion. Uncommon in the dustjacket.

3. 'B.B.' [i.e. D.J. Watkins-Pitchford] *Bill Badger and the Big Store Robbery.* Illustrated by D.J. Watkins-Pitchford [Reindeer Books]. Hamish Hamilton, 1967, FIRST EDITION, line-drawings, some full-page, pp. 120, crown 8vo, original illustrated boards, slight lean to spine, top edge lightly spotted, contemporary gift inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket repeating board design, very good **£250**

The seventh of the author's eight 'Bill Badger' books, with his own illustrations.

4. Blyton (Enid) *Five on Kirrin Island Again.* Hodder & Stoughton, 1947, FIRST EDITION, vignette to half-title, colour-printed frontispiece and illustrations to the text (a few with printing in red), contemporary ownership inscription to title-page, pp. 192, crown 8vo, original blue boards, backstrip lettered in black and slightly faded at tips, edges slightly toned, illustrated endpapers, dustjacket in excellent shape (the telescope the wrong way round in image to front panel, as usual), just slightly nicked and rubbed at extremities, chipped at foot of front panel, very good **£300**

The sixth novel in the author's much-loved 'Famous Five' series, the telescope to the dustjacket the wrong way round as usual.

5. Boyne (John) *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. A Fable. Oxford: David Fickling Books, 2006, FIRST EDITION, pp. [viii], 216, crown 8vo, original grey boards, backstrip lettered in black, faint handling mark at head of boards and a little dink to tail of lower board, faint spot to fore-margin of flyleaf, dustjacket a mite rubbed at extremities, very good **£60**

Inscribed by the author on the title-page: 'For Stephano[?], John Boyne, 20 Jan. '06'. Inscribed by the author on the title-page: 'For Stephano[?], John Boyne, 20 Jan. '06'. A novel of Auschwitz for younger readers, skilfully told.

6. Dahl (Roald) *The Witches*. Jonathan Cape, 1983, FIRST EDITION, line-drawings throughout, some full-page, by Quentin Blake, the paper faintly browned throughout as usual, pp. 208, 8vo, original blue-green boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, dustjacket by Blake with hint of fading to the backstrip panel, the issue without printed price to front flap, near fine **£250**
A complex and disquieting novel, the basis for two major film adaptations.

7. Dahl (Roald) *Matilda*. Jonathan Cape, 1988, FIRST EDITION, illustrations, some full-page, by Quentin Blake, pp. 240, 8vo, original red boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, slight lean to spine, hint of a knock to top corner of lower board, dustjacket by Blake, near fine **£400**
An excellent copy of the author's last great work.

8. Durrell (Gerald) *The Donkey Rustlers*. Illustrated by Anne Mieke van Ogtrop. Collins, 1968, FIRST EDITION, pp. 144, crown 8vo, original green boards, backstrip lettered in silver with slight lean to spine, dustjacket with a little creasing to front flap, very good **£70**
His first novel for young people, set on the Greek island of Melissa.

9. Garner (Alan) *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen*. Collins, 1960, FIRST EDITION, pp. 224, crown 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in silver, slightly rubbed at extremities, edges spotted, endpaper maps drawn by Charles Green, a few faint spots to free endpapers, dustjacket with a design by George Adamson, a little chipped, nicked and rubbed at extremities with a couple of very short closed tears, very good **£800**
Garner's remarkable debut, a fantasy novel for younger readers set in his native North-West.

10. Hennell (Thomas) & Edward Bawden (Illustrator) *Lady Filmy Fern*. Or *The Voyage of the Window Box*. Hamish Hamilton, 1980, FIRST EDITION, with colour-illustrated title-page, 18 further full-page colour illustrations and one monochrome, pp. [42], oblong, original pale purple boards, front board with illustration of the Polypod photographer at sea, dustjacket repeating illustration, a few tiny marks, near fine **£60**
A delightful book, originally conceived through a game of consequences by Bawden, his wife, Charlotte Epton, Eric Ravilious, his wife, Tirzah, and Gwyneth Lloyd Thomas (an English don at Girton, Cambridge) during 'lamp-lit evenings' at Bawden's Brick House. Tom Hennell wrote down and edited the story, Bawden provided the illustrations, and following an initial rejection from one publisher, the work was stored, in a scrapbook, down a well in the garden, so that it would be safe (though not particularly dry) during the war. It was rediscovered in 1979, when a Bawden exhibition was being planned, and published for the first time here. The story itself is a tale of adventure, crossing continents and the high seas, involving elephants, the Indian rope trip and the Suez Canal, and a must for all bell-jar aficionados.

11. Jones (Harold) *The Visit to the Farm*. Faber and Faber, [1939], FIRST EDITION, with delightful 4 double-page and 4 full-page three colour-printed illustrations (in shades of blue and orange) and with a head- and tail-piece to each of the other pages of text, all by Harold Jones,

pp. [32], 4to., original cream boards with Jones illustrations printed in turquoise, some light wear to extremities and a few faint spots, a short series of small indentation towards foot of upper board, dustjacket repeating board-design (printed in brown), slightly nicked, chipped and creased to extremities, very good **£200**

A charming wartime work, the illustrator's debut as an author.

12. Larry (Yan) The Extraordinary Adventures of Karik and Valya. Translated from the Russian by John P. Mandeville. Hutchinson's Books for Young People, [1945,] FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, frontispiece and 10 colour-printed plates with further illustrations to the text, all by Grace Lodge, pp. 302, crown 8vo, original duck-egg blue cloth, lettered in black to upper board and backstrip, the latter faded, a hint of fading at head of lower board also, corners slightly pushed, some little spots and tiny dinks to extremities of boards, top edge a trifle dusty, good **£400**

Scarce. The Russian first edition was published in 1937, with photomontage illustrations; this English edition with very accomplished original illustrations in a different style by Grace Lodge, best-known for her work with Enid Blyton.

The story concerns two children who find themselves shrunk to the size of insects.

13. Lewis (C.S.) Prince Caspian. The Return to Narnia. Illustrations by Pauline Baynes. Geoffrey Bles, 1951, FIRST EDITION, colour-printed frontispiece and 47 black and white text illustrations (4 full-page) by Pauline Baynes pp. 195, crown 8vo original dark blue boards, backstrip lettered in silver, the boards faintly damp-mottled, the gently toned textblock edges showing a few faint spots, endpaper maps by Pauline Baynes, free endpapers with a little browning, Baynes design to dustjacket, this in excellent shape with faintly browned backstrip panel, slightly nicked and rubbed at extremities, very good **£2,000**

A pleasing copy of the second Narnia book.

14. Lewis (C.S.) The Last Battle. A Story for Children. Bodley Head, 1956, FIRST EDITION, line-drawings, some full-page, by Pauline Baynes, pp. 184, crown 8vo, original blue boards, backstrip lettered in silver with a touch of fading at tips, very slight lean to spine, bookseller ticket at foot of rear pastedown, the flyleaf with near-contemporary gift inscription, dustjacket with designs by Pauline Baynes, hint of sunning to the backstrip panel and a few faint spots, a few tape shadows to the verso, slightly nicked and rubbed at extremities, very good **£1,500**

An excellent copy of the final book in the Narnia series.

15. Pullman (Philip) The Subtle Knife. Scholastic Press, 1997, FIRST EDITION, pp. [viii], 341, 8vo, original green boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, illustration of knife stamped in gilt to upper board, slight lean to spine, dustjacket with a touch of creasing at extremities, very good **£250**

Signed by the author on the title-page.

16. Pullman (Philip) The Amber Spyglass. David Fickling Books / Scholastic, 2000, FIRST EDITION, pp. [viii], 552, crown 8vo, original black boards, backstrip and upper board gilt lettered, dustjacket, fine **£200**

Signed by the author to the title-page.

17. Saint-Exupéry (Antoine) The Little Prince. Translated from the French by Katherine Woods. William Heinemann Ltd., [1944], FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, with coloured and monochrome illustrations in the text drawn by the author, initial and final leaves faintly spotted, a few leaves with small marks at fore-edge, pp. 87, [iv], 8vo, original pictorial apricot cloth, the lettering and illustration on backstrip and boards in blue and red, both boards with a few small faint marks, extremities a touch rubbed, text block edges slightly spotted, very good **£395**

Scarce first English edition, having appeared in New York, first in English, then in French, the previous year. Katherine Woods' translation is considered unmatched, indeed equal to the original.

18. Smith (Dodie) *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*. Illustrated by Janet and Anne Grahame-Johnstone. Heinemann, 1956, FIRST EDITION, line-drawings in the text, some full-page, pp. viii, 192, 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in silver and slightly rubbed at tips, slight lean to spine, a couple of very faint spots to edges, illustrated endpapers, dustjacket price-clipped with backstrip panel gently sunned, nick (and attendant creasing) at head of rear panel, very good
£700

*[With:] Smith (Dodie) *The Starlight Barking. More About The Hundred and One Dalmatians*. Illustrated by Janet and Anne Grahame-Johnstone. Heinemann, 1967, FIRST EDITION, line-drawings in the text, some full-page, one or two spots to page-borders, pp. v, 145, 8vo, original blue boards, backstrip lettered in silver, slight lean to spine, edges spotted, illustrated endpapers, dustjacket with discreet gift inscription to front flap, a couple of tiny nicks and slight rubbing to extremities, very good*

19. Trevelyan (Julian) *The Artist and His World*. A Young Person's Guide. Victor Gollancz, 1960, FIRST EDITION, pp. 192, crown 8vo, original maroon boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, edges toned, free endpapers browned in part, dustjacket with a design by the author wrapping round, backstrip panel a little browned **£275**

A review copy, with the publisher's slip laid in.

An excellent introductory guide; the inaugural, and perhaps most collectable, title from this Gollancz series, outlining different professions for younger readers - all of which have dustjackets designed by Trevelyan.

20. Wilde (Oscar) *The Selfish Giant*. Drawings by F. Roberts Johnson. Comyns, 1946, FIRST EDITION WITH THESE ILLUSTRATIONS, title-page printed in black and pale blue with Roberts Johnson vignette, 7 full-page illustrations printed against a ground of blue or pink, the borders to each text-page also in these colours, the paper a little browned throughout, pp. 30, 4to, original stapled mid-brown wrappers with a Roberts Johnson illustration to front printed in black and pink against a white ground, touch of corner-creasing and some faint handling to rear, a few faint spots to front, very good **£750**

A scarce edition of Wilde's fairy tale, of manifest fragility - this copy retaining the attractiveness that the illustrations cultivate, despite the poor quality of the materials used.

Frederick Roberts Johnson was a Cornish artist, associated for a time with Arthur Wragg - likewise contributing political cartoons to the left-wing Tribune during the Second World War. This work, one of only a few commissions for book-illustration, shows a return to more innocent themes following the conflict.