

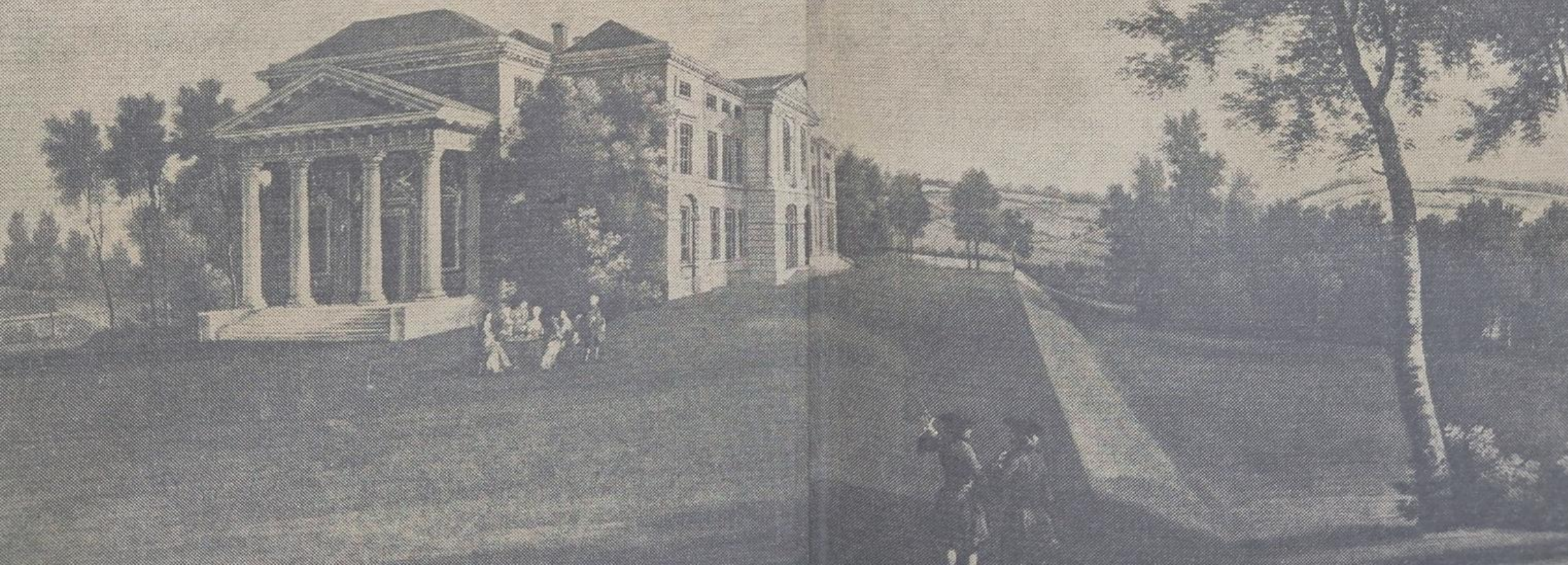


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“Caves of Ice and ovens of love”

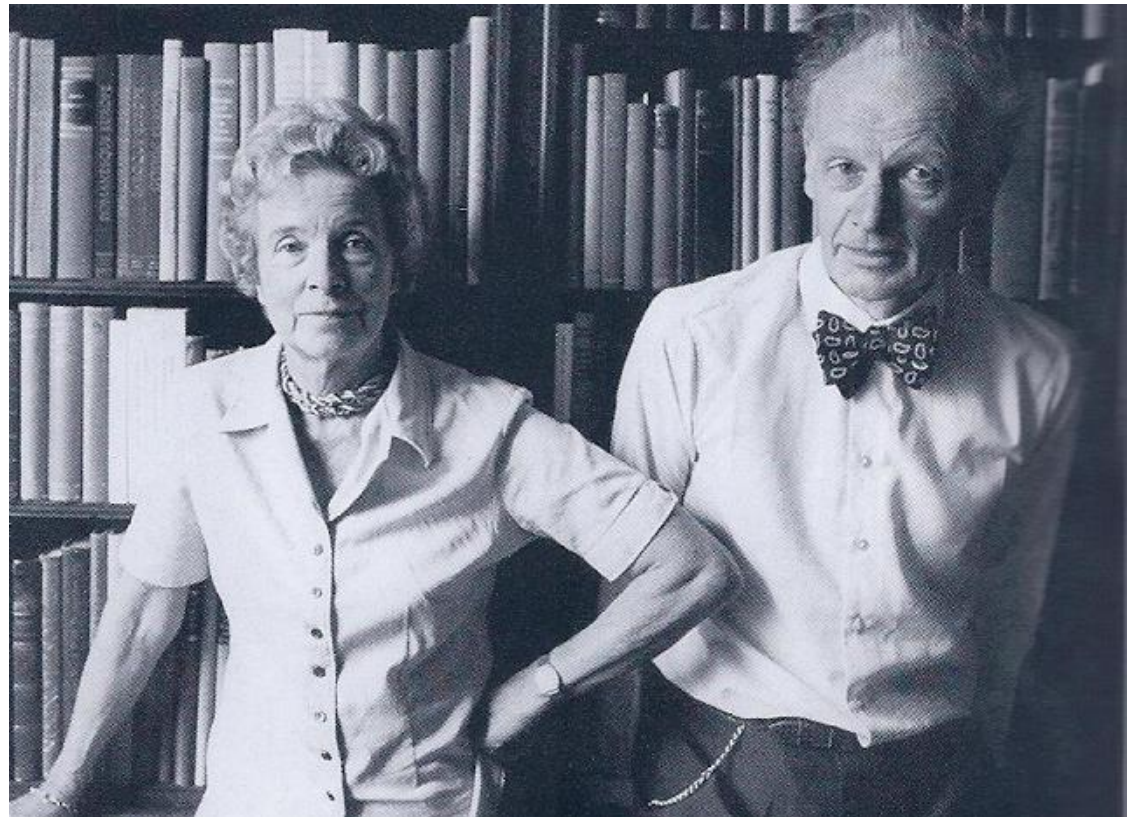
A collection of works by James Lees-Milne
inscribed to his wife Alvilde



James Lees-Milne is known as much for his work shaping the National Trust's collection of significant English country houses as for his diaries detailing upper and upper-middle class life in the mid-twentieth century. For a pupil who showed little promise he defied scholarly estimation to publish some 34 books. In this catalogue, we are offering 21 of these all inscribed to his second wife, Alvilde Chaplin. The collection includes architectural history, biography, fiction, his autobiography and the first four volumes of his classic diaries.

Following an Oxford encounter with a boorish

Hooray who took a shotgun to a statue of Apollo, Lees-Milne "made a vow ... that I would devote my energies and abilities, such as they were, to preserving the country houses of England". He was instrumental in shifting the National Trust's initial focus from the preservation of countryside, coastal and green spaces towards historic houses. During his forty-seven years with the Trust he secured many of the country's great estates for the nation. Without his involvement as a preserver of the English Country House at this crucial stage in the Trust's development the UK's built heritage would look very different.



Lees-Milne approached his work with the Trust as an aesthete and an architectural historian and this catalogue includes many of his most important works of architectural history.

The extraordinary cast of characters he met when touring the country – mostly penurious aristocrats keen to offload their burdensome houses – fed into his diaries, the first four of which, detailing his early work with the National Trust are included here as are three of his biographies including that of Harold Nicolson, his finest, and most personal. It is these waspish and amusing diaries and biographies for which Lees-Milne is best remembered as a writer.

In 1951, somewhat against the odds, Lees-Milne married Alvilde Chaplin. It was not a conventional marriage. Bisexual both, they kept arrangements open which was the source of much turbulence. Even so their mutual affinity, shared cultural interests and experiences enabled them to weather forty-three years of marriage and Lees-Milne was devoted to Alvilde until her death. Alvilde herself was charismatic, highly cultured and a notable gardener, creating renowned gardens at their homes in France and England as well as for high-profile clients. She also edited four books with distinguished English garden designer Rosemary Verey.

The books, all in very good condition and many fine or near-mint, bear personal inscriptions to Alvilde from Jim, many warmly affectionate, attesting to their strong – albeit unconventional – bond. A significant set of works, from the library of an eminent designer, by a custodian of British heritage whose impact will resonate for generations.

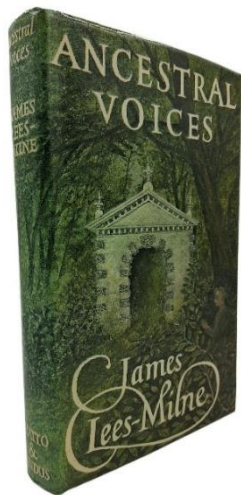
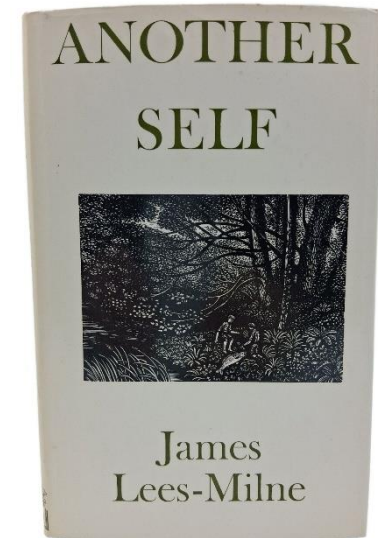
To my adviser, censor and critic

1. **LEES-MILNE, James** Another Self. London: Hamish Hamilton 1970

First edition. 214x135mm. pp. vii [ibl], 157 [1bl]. Green cloth, spine lettered in gilt. Dustjacket is illustrated with a wood engraving *Tobias and the Angel* by Reynolds Stone (which is repeated as a frontispiece). Illustrated endpapers. Top edge stained purple. Loosely inserted are three newspaper cuttings. Spine is sunned and there are one or two spots of foxing but otherwise in superb, near fine condition throughout. An excellent copy of Lees-Milne's characteristically witty and self-deprecating memoir of his early life before he began keeping what would amount to multiple volumes of diaries.

Half title is inscribed "To my first adviser, censor and critic Alvilde from her J. March 1970".

[4929] £295



Darling Dame

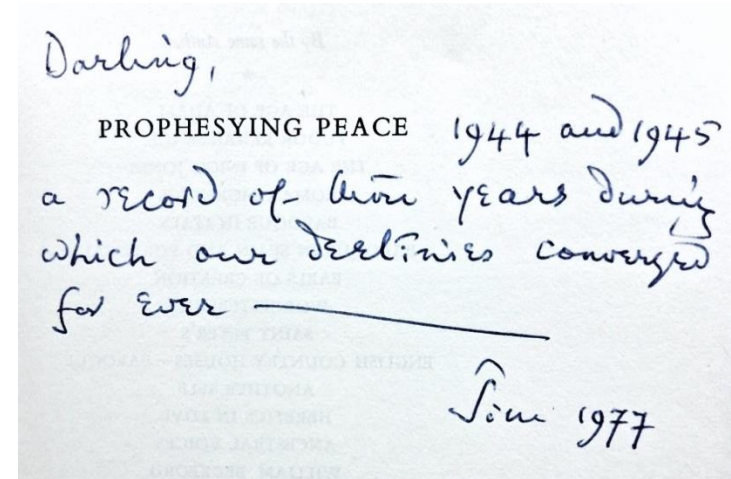
2. **LEES-MILNE, James** Ancestral Voices. London: Chatto & Windus 1975

First edition, inscribed by Lees-Milne. 217x135mm. pp. x, 301 [1]. Green cloth, spine lettered in gilt, illustrated dustjacket and endpapers. Some very slight creasing to head and foot of spine of dustjacket and very light foxing along top edge of text block and to the flaps of the dustjacket but otherwise in excellent condition. Half-title is inscribed "Darling Dame from your devoted J. 1975". A very good copy of the first volume of Lees-Milne's celebrated diaries which provides an invaluable insight into the life of the country house during WWII and describes his early work in saving many of these houses for the National Trust.

[4918] £375

Converging destinies

3. **LEES-MILNE, James** *Prophecy of Peace*. London: Chatto & Windus 1977
First edition, inscribed by Lees-Milne. 215x135mm. pp. [viii], 253 [1]. Green cloth, spine lettered in gilt, dustjacket lettered in black, illustrated endpapers. Some slight foxing to edges but otherwise in excellent, near fine condition throughout. Half-title is inscribed "Darling, 1944 and 1945, a record of those years during which our destinies converged for ever. Jim 1977". A superb copy of the second volume of Lees-Milne's waspish diaries with a beautiful and touching inscription to Alville.
[4919] £375



Caves of Ice and ovens of love



4. **LEES-MILNE, James** *Caves of Ice*.
London: Chatto & Windus. The Hogarth Press. 1983
First edition. The third volume of Lees-Milne's diaries. 215x135mm. pp. [10], 276. Green cloth, spine lettered in gilt. Illustrated dustjacket and endpapers. Slight creasing to head of spine of dustjacket but otherwise in excellent, near fine condition throughout. Half title is inscribed "To darling A *Caves of Ice* and ovens of love from Jim. 22.1.83".
[4925] £375

The end of the hungry forties

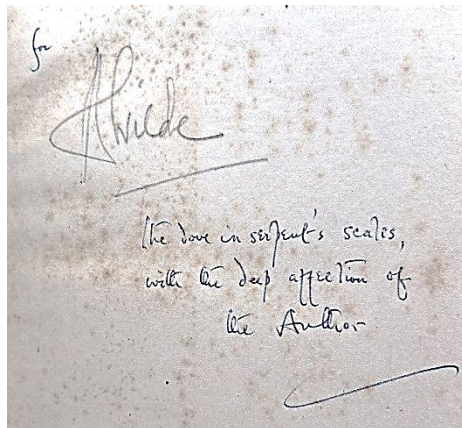
5. **LEES-MILNE, James** Midway on the Waves. London: Faber and Faber. 1985

First edition. The fourth volume of Lees-Milne's diaries. 233x154mm. pp. 248. Blue cloth, spine lettered in gilt. Original illustrated dustjacket. Very slight shelfwear to top edge of dustjacket but otherwise in excellent, near fine condition throughout. Front free endpaper is inscribed "For darling Alvilde who salvaged me midway on the waves, from Jim, 1985". Loosely inserted are three newspaper cuttings with reviews of the book by Anthony Lambton, Anthony Powell and Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd. All are full of praise for the book, unsurprisingly so in the case of HM-M who thought so highly of JL-M that he wrote a one-man play based on his diaries.

[4926] £350



Lees-Milne's first published book, inscribed to his "dove in serpent's scales"



6. **LEES-MILNE, James** The Age of Adam London B.T. Batford 1947

First edition. Author's inscription on free endpaper. 146x221mm. pp. x, 184. Publisher's red cloth, gilt lettering on spine. Original dustjacket. Some tears to top and tail edges of dust jacket. Light foxing to fore edge. Internally very good; overall in very good condition. Inscription reads "for Alvilde The dove in serpent's scales, with the deep affection of the Author".

The Age of Adam, looking at the architectural impact of the four Adam brothers among their contemporaries both in Britain and on the continent, was Lees-Milne's first published work.

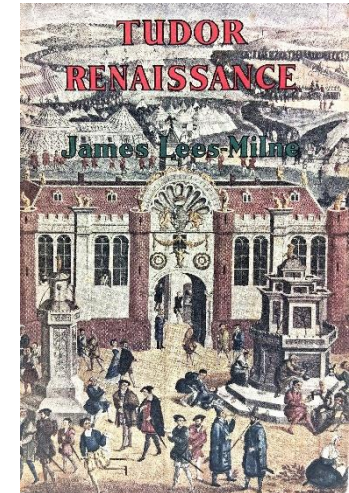
[4913] £350

Italy comes to England

7. **LEES-MILNE, James** Tudor Renaissance. London: B.T.Batsford 1951

First edition. 220x145mm. pp. viii, 152. Part of Batsford's "British Heritage" series. Illustrated throughout with black and white photographs and a colour frontispiece. Grey cloth, spine lettered in gilt. Illustrated dustjacket. Some rubbing to extremities. Chipping to head and foot of spine of dustjacket and slight creasing and a closed tear to top edge of jacket. Some foxing but otherwise very good internally. Inscribed on the front free endpaper: "To Alvilde with love from Jim. May 1951".

[4924] **£150**



Rome at Daybreak



8. **LEES-MILNE, James** Roman Mornings. London: Allan Wingate 1956

First edition. 215x135mm. pp. 148. Illustrated with black and white photographs, plans and drawings. Maroon cloth, spine lettered in gilt, original illustrated dustjacket. Loosely inserted are numerous newspaper cuttings. Repaired closed tear across the upper cover of dustjacket and some slight soiling and chipping to the jacket. Some foxing but otherwise a nice copy of a clever little architectural history of Rome which describes the various period styles (Ancient, early Christian, Renaissance, Baroque et al) by taking one single representative building and studying it in detail. Front free endpaper inscribed "Darling Alvilde from Jim, May 1956."

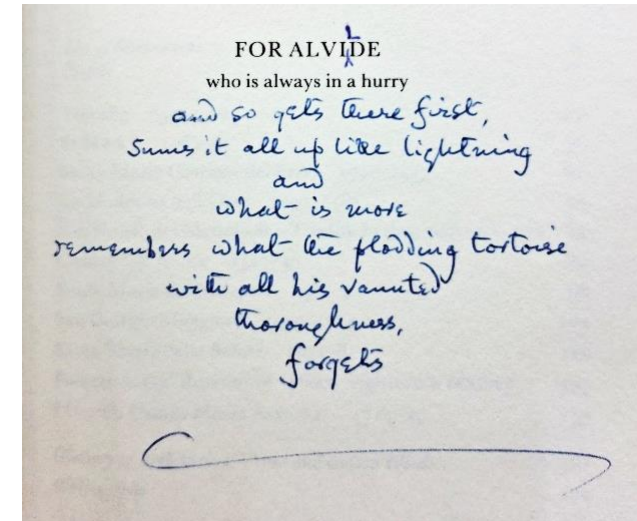
[4928] **£150**

Venice at dusk

9. **LEES-MILNE, James** Venetian Evenings. London: Collins 1988

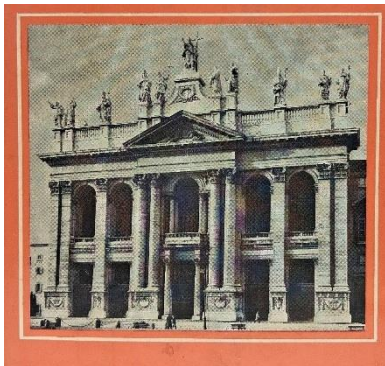
First edition. 212x130mm. pp. 174. Blue cloth, spine lettered in gilt. Illustrated dustjacket. Very slight shelfwear to top edge of dustjacket but otherwise in immaculate condition throughout. Loosely inserted are two newspaper reviews and a postcard addressed to "Dear Diarist" from a reader. Inscribed on the dedication page *For Alvilde who is always in a hurry* "and so gets there first, sums it all up like lightning and what is more remembers what the plodding tortoise with all his vaunted thoroughness forgets". *Venetian Evenings* is both a companion piece to *Roman Mornings* (first published in 1960 and reissued in 1988) and a personal portrait of La Serenissima through his eleven favourite buildings.

[4927] £295



"By far the best book he has written"

10. **LEES-MILNE, James** Baroque in Italy. London: B.T.Batsford 1959

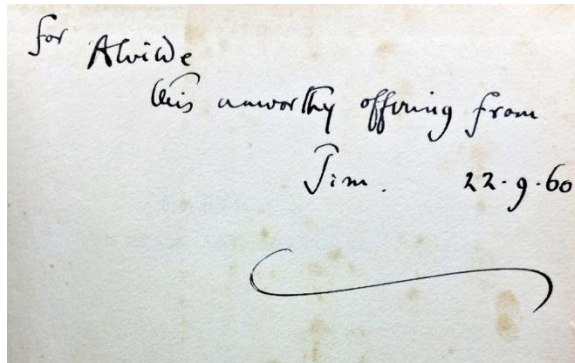


First edition. 221x145mm. pp. 216. Green cloth, spine lettered in gilt. Original illustrated dustjacket. Tear at foot of jacket (with loss of c25mm) and some creasing to head and foot of spine of jacket. Some slight foxing in places but overall a nice copy. Loosely inserted are eleven newspaper cuttings, including reviews of this book and an article by Lees-Milne. Front free endpaper is inscribed "For Alvilde darling the first 22 October 1959. Jim". *Baroque in Italy* is one of Lees-Milne's earlier books and was described by Sacheverell Sitwell (himself an expert on the subject) as "by far the best book he has written". It is unclear what Lees-Milne means by "the first" in his inscription. Is it the first book he had given to her? Unlikely as they married in 1951 or is Alvilde the "first" of his darlings?

[4921] £175

“unworthy offering”?

11. **LEES-MILNE, James** Baroque in Spain and Portugal. London: B.T.Batsford 1960



First edition. 220x145mm. pp. 224. Illustrated throughout with black and white photographs. Green cloth, spine lettered in gilt. Original illustrated dustjacket. Some rubbing to extremities and creasing to edges of dustjacket and two repaired closed tears to the upper cover of jacket. Internally, there is some foxing but overall a nice copy. Inscribed on the front free endpaper “For Alvide, this unworthy offering from Jim. 22.9.60”. Tipped-in on rear endpaper is a newspaper cutting with a (very positive) review of the book. This study of Baroque art and architecture on the Iberian peninsula was published the year after *Baroque in Italy* and serves as a companion to it. [4923] £175

Rome again

12. **LEES-MILNE, James** Saint Peter's. The Story of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. London Hamish Hamilton 1967

First edition. 252mmx191mm. pp.336. Blue cloth. Title in gilt on spine. Original illustrated dust jacket. Some bumping to head of foot and spine. Some creasing top edge of dust jacket. Otherwise in very nice condition. Loosely inserted are two newspaper cuttings one of which is a TLS review of this book. Inscribed on the half-title “Darling Alvide A.D 67-1967 ‘Then thank him not for that which he doth say, Since what he owes thee thou thyself dost pay’. Jim. Festival of St. Peter 29.6.1967.” The quote is from Shakespeare sonnet no.79.

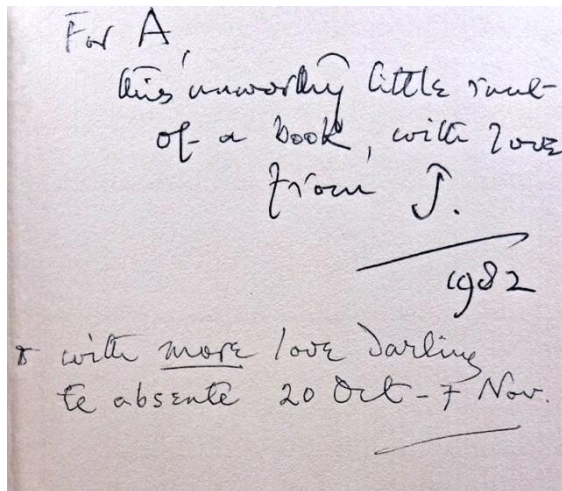
A nice inscribed copy of Lees-Milne's book on the history and architecture of St. Peter's great Roman Basilica.

[4898] £300



An “unworthy little runt of a book”

13. **LEES-MILNE, James** *The Country House*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1982



First edition, inscribed by Lees-Milne. 197x115mm. pp. viii, [2], 110. Olive green cloth, spine lettered in gilt, illustrated dustjacket. Slight foxing to top edge of text block but otherwise in fine condition throughout. Front free endpaper is inscribed “For A, this unworthy little runt of a book, with love from J. 1982. & with more love darling te absente 20 Oct-7 Nov”.

A sweet little book - no runt - published as part of the Small Oxford Books series, it is an anthology of short writings and observations on the country house collected under headings such as Servants, Architects and Clients, Inhabitants, Food and Drink, Pictures and Furniture and Squires, Good and Bad. Charming.

[4920] £275

Saving country houses

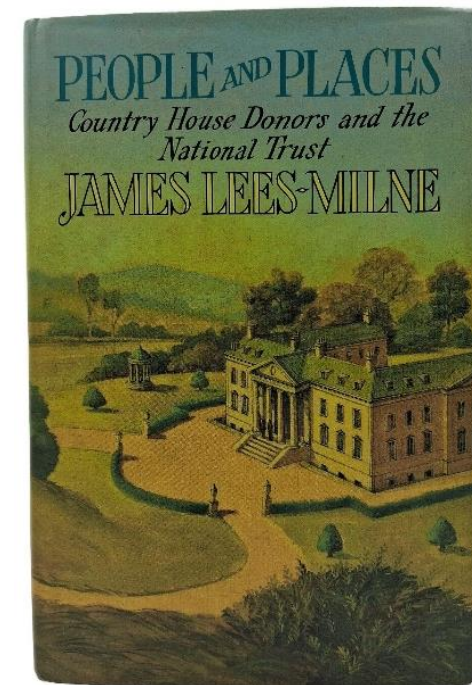
14. **LEES-MILNE, James** *People and Places*. Country House Donors and the National Trust.

London: John Murray. 1992

First edition. 232x155mm. pp. vii [i], 232. Green cloth, spine lettered in gilt, original illustrated dustjacket. In mint condition. Front free endpaper is inscribed “To A. At your darling feet I lay/Tribute from another day. J.L-M. 1.9.1992”.

Through his work at the National Trust, Lees-Milne did more than almost anyone to preserve the English country house from the ravages of war, tax and social revolution. As well as describing fourteen houses given to the Trust, Lees-Milne provides wonderfully clear and fresh pen portraits of the (frequently eccentric) donors.

[4922] £295



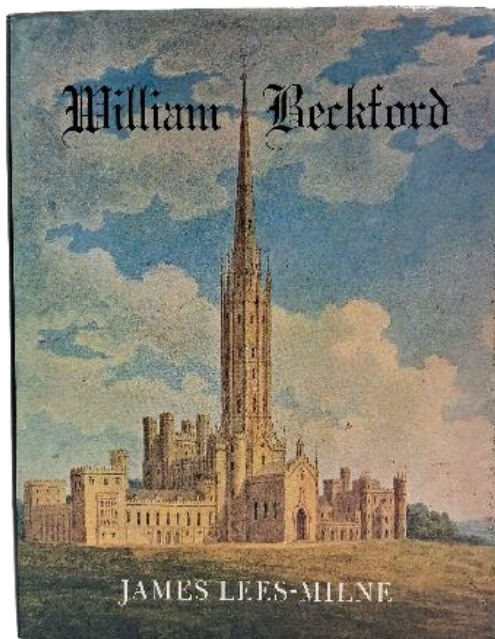
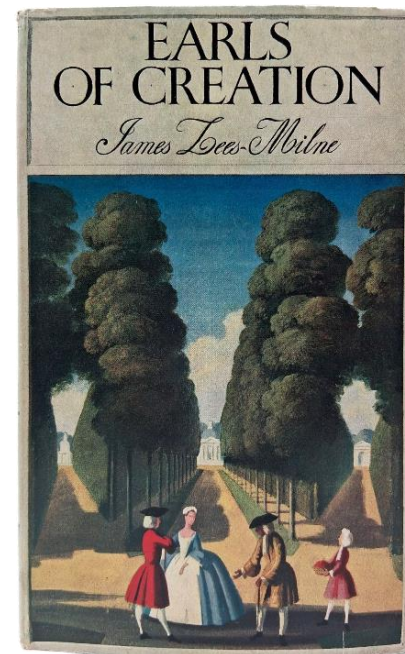
Aristo-architects

15. **LEES-MILNE, James** *Earls of Creation Five Great Patrons of Eighteenth-Century Art*

London: Hamish Hamilton 1962

First edition. Author's inscription on free endpaper. 255x152mm. pp. 285 [ibl]. Publisher's blue cloth, gilt lettering in red label on spine. Original dustjacket. Red head edges. Very minor chipping and small tear to top edges of dust jacket. Light foxing to fore edge. Internally very good; overall in very good condition. Inscription reads "To A. with love & gratitude from J. 26th Nov. 1962 Let thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth".

Earls of Creation focuses on the five eighteenth-century taste-makers whose estates and impact on the British cultural landscape still signify centuries later. [4911] £275



An eccentric examines an eccentric

16. **LEES-MILNE, James** *William Beckford*. Tisbury, Wiltshire: Compton Russell Ltd 1976

First edition. 250mmx195mm. pp.i-vi, 7-124 [4]. Maroon publisher's cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt. Original illustrated dust jacket. Slight soiling to jacket and edges of leaves, otherwise in excellent condition. Half-title page inscribed "Darling A, with love, J. Easter 1976".

Among Lees-Milne's many qualifications to write a biography of the eighteenth-century polymath, not least was the fact he was living in the maisonette in Lansdowne Crescent, Bath which housed Beckford's library. In this, Lees-Milne's first biographical work, William Beckford's many talents and eccentricities are presented through a detailed examination of his prodigious output.

[4897] £275

To “my first counsellor and guide”

17. **LEES-MILNE, James** Harold Nicolson. A Biography Volume I 1886-1929
Volume II 1930-1968 London Chatto & Windus 1980

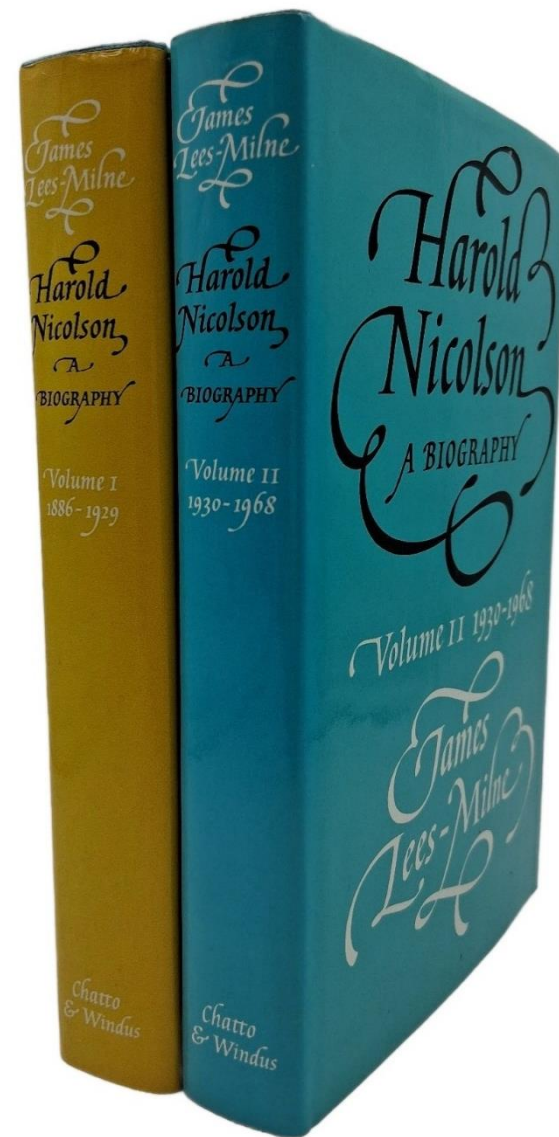
First edition. Two volumes.

Volume I 216x136mm. pp.xii, 429. Publisher's blue cloth, gilt lettering to spine..
Original yellow dust jacket in very good condition. Slight foxing to top edges but
otherwise very good internally and overall in excellent condition. Inscribed
“Darling Alvilde, my first counsellor and guide in the writing of this book, from
Jim 24.10.80”.

Volume II 214x136mm. pp.xii, 403. Publisher's blue cloth, gilt lettering to spine.
Original turquoise dust jacket in very good condition. Slight foxing to top edges but
otherwise very good internally and overall in excellent condition. Loosely inserted
are two colour photographs numbered 1187-10 and 1187-19; 1187-10 inscribed
“Christmas luncheon at Chatsworth 1994”. Inscription reads “Darling A, with love
from yr. J Oct. 1981”.

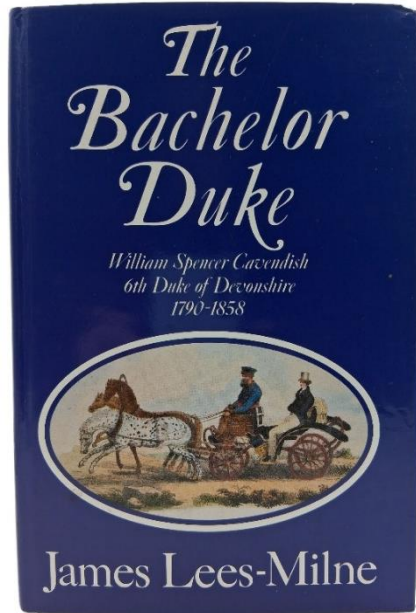
A near-fine copy of Lees-Milne's biography of the eminent British diplomat,
diarist, journalist, novelist, biographer and politician. Author and subject also
shared a more personal connection: Nicolson and his wife, Vita Sackville-West,
were like Lees-Milne and Alvilde both bisexual and polyamorous. Together
Nicolson and Sackville-West created their legacy at Sissinghurst Castle, its garden
internationally famed for its expressive planting.

[4914] £375



“Most lovingly”

18. LEES-MILNE, James *The Bachelor Duke. A Life of William Spencer Cavendish 6th Duke of Devonshire 1790-1858*



London: John Murray 1991

First edition. Author's inscription and note on both free endpapers. 232x 158mm. pp.xii, 234. Publisher's blue cloth, silver gilt lettering on spine. Original dustjacket. Overall in very good condition. Inscription reads "Darling A, most lovingly, 'I Dec. 1990".

The Bachelor Duke is a stylish, sympathetic biography of this most civilised of Dukes, just the sort of Duke whom, one suspects, Lees-Milne felt all Dukes should be like.

[4912] **£250**

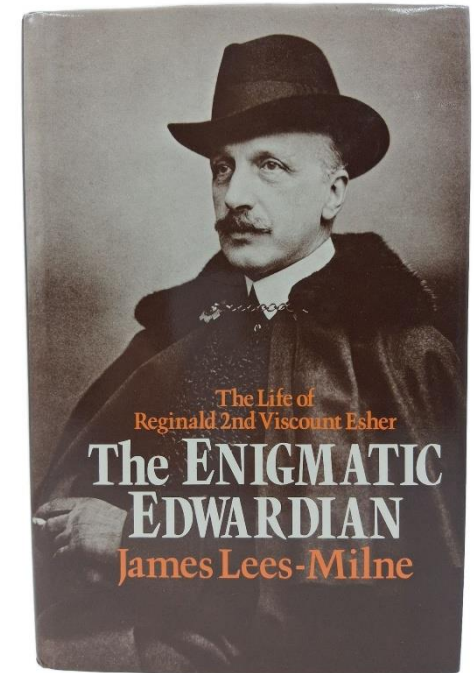
The arch-manipulator

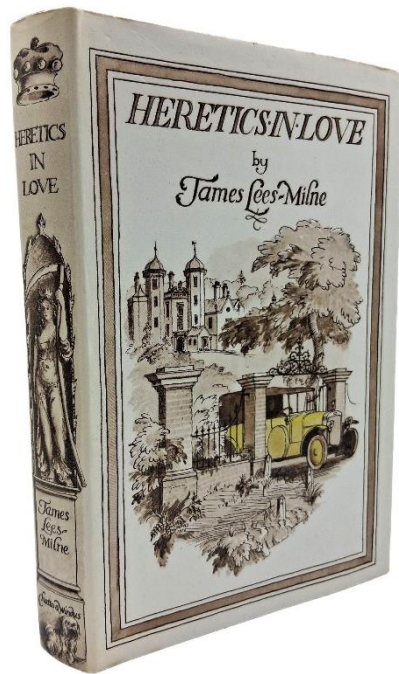
19. LEES-MILNE, James *The Enigmatic Edwardian. The Life of Reginald, 2nd Viscount Esher.*

London: Sidgwick & Jackson. 1986

First edition (and apparently the first copy). 234x150mm. pp. [10], 401 [1bl]. 8pp black and white illustrations. Brown cloth, spine lettered in gilt, original illustrated dustjacket. In excellent condition throughout. Loosely inserted are three newspaper cuttings with reviews of the book and one about Lees-Milne. Front free endpaper is inscribed "For darling Alvilde this first copy of a swan-song from Jim. 5 Sept 1986". Esher is perhaps little known now but he was, at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, one of the most influential figures in political life. He had a huge circle of friends in high places and, although he never sought public office, used his extensive links and diplomatic charm to manipulate and mould events.

[4917] **£275**





An “old-fashioned tale”

20. LEES-MILNE, James *Heretics in Love*. London Chatto & Windus 1973

First edition. Inscribed on half-title. 204x132mm. pp.211. Publisher’s green cloth, gilt lettering to spine. Original dustjacket. Light foxing to head edges. Loose insert of *The Sunday Times*’ favourable book review. Inscription reads “For Darling Alvide this old-fashioned tale by Jim 14.2.73”.

This intense novel, written in the wake of 60s liberation, threads a quasi-Jacobean conceit of orphaned incestuous twins with high, sometimes camp, drama as the siblings struggle to achieve individual self-actualisation against a backdrop of mid-century post-war Britain.

[4910] £375

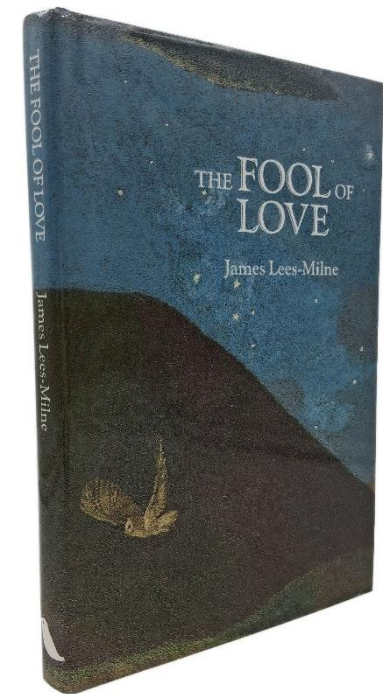
Sparkling and sinister

21. LEES-MILNE, James *The Fool of Love*. London: Robinson Publishing 1990

First edition, inscribed by Lees-Milne to his wife Alvide. 218x135mm. pp. [6], 170. Blue cloth, spine lettered in gilt. Original illustrated dustjacket. Apart from some very slight foxing to the edges of the leaves, this is in near mint condition throughout. Inscribed on the front free endpaper “Darling, to lighten your slumbers from J. 12.8.1990.”

A superb copy of Lees-Milne’s third novel set in a country house during WWI and which tells the story of a schoolboy (Rupert Fiennes-Templeton) for love and affection. “Sparkling, sinister, occasionally comic and often moving”.

[4916] £250



For darling Alvilde,

Who salvaged me midway
on the waves, from

Jim, 1985

