



## METAMORPHOSES.

**1. Apuleius (Lucius) Madaurensis Platonicus, serio castigates.** Amsterdam: Apud Guili. Caesium 1624 engraved title; uniformly toned, with the prelims and endleaves browned; pp. 366; 16mo. late eighteenth-century coarse grained morocco, panelled gilt, spine with raised bands, gilt edges. **£325**

*This small volume contains Apuleius' Metamorphosis (Golden Ass), as well as shorter treatises, edited by Peter Schriver and published by Caesius in Amsterdam. Works included in this small book include: Florida Apologia Metamorphoseon, or of Asino Avero On the God of Socrates On Philosophy On Plato and his Doctrine De Mundo, or On the Universe.*

*Two versions were published in the same year, the other with pp. 384.*

**2. (Borges.) DABOVE (Santiago) La Muerte y su trave.** Prológo de Jorge Luis Borges. Buenos Aires: Editorial Alcándara, 1961, FIRST EDITION, the paper browned throughout, pp. 138, [iv], crown 8vo, original pictorial wrappers with French flaps, tiny nicks at head of backstrip which is lightly rubbed at tips, faint soiling and browning to margin of rear panel, very good **£80**

*Though without mark of ownership, this copy from the library of Norman Thomas di Giovanni, the translator of Borges; the latter contributes a Prologue here, characteristic in the range and rapidity of literary references – Shakespeare, Peter Kropotkin, Mark Twain, De Quincey, Schopenhauer, Poe, Maupassant, Goethe, and Byron's 'Don Juan' are reeled off in short order (it amounts to 3pp.)*

*This collection of stories was published posthumously (the author died in 1952); he was part of a literary circle that included Borges, but published only in periodicals during his lifetime – in this, his first book, Borges presents him as a neglected talent, though one whose neglect is a natural corollary to his own reclusiveness and pessimism – his stories possess elements of fantasy, exploring themes of death and metamorphosis, the latter particularly in 'Ser Polvo' where the protagonist transforms into a cactus and then into dust.*

**3. Dearmer (Geoffrey) They Chose to be Birds.** William Heinemann, 1935, FIRST EDITION, some light foxing, pp. [viii], 280, crown 8vo, original green cloth, backstrip lettered in white, publisher's device stamped in blind to lower board, edges spotted, dustjacket with a striking design by Youngman Carter, small closed tear at head of front panel, a couple of miniscule nicks and gently rubbed at extremities, very good **£750**

*The author's second novel, preceded also by volumes of poetry and plays - scarce.*

*A work of science fiction based on the relationship between religion and biology, by the son of author Mabel Dearmer, in which a family metamorphose into different types of birds - the preacher, Arthur Fellowes Fall, electing to become a parrot to continue his ability to talk.*

**4. Garner (Alan) *The Owl Service*.** Collins, 1967, FIRST EDITION, pp. 157, crown 8vo, original orange boards, backstrip lettered in silver, faint browning to rear panel of dustjacket, the lettering to backstrip panel similarly toned, a couple of miniscule nicks, very good **£180**

*Winner of the Carnegie Medal and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, Garner's fantasy novel had two initial sources of inspiration: 'an old Welsh legend about Lleu, and his wife Blodeuwedd', from The Mabinogion; and a dinner service owned by his wife's mother. In both the theme of being both 'flowers' and 'owl' is exemplified - as represented in the story by the character of Alison.*

**5. Garnett (David) *Lady into Fox*.** Illustrated with Wood-Engravings by R.A. Garnett. Chatto & Windus, 1922, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece with tissue-guard, title-page vignette and 9 further illustrations with 1 full-page, spare label tipped in at rear, pp. [viii], 91, crown 8vo, original black and pink patterned cloth, backstrip with pink printed label slightly sunned, t.e.g., others roughtrimmed with a few spots, bookplates of Samuel Garcia Asher and Hogarth Press collector William Beekman to the front pastedown, dustjacket with browned backstrip panel and some light handling, a couple of spots of internal tape repair to nicks, very good **£275**

*The author's first novel under his own name, following the pseudonymous 'Dope Darling'. The illustrations are by Garnett's wife Ray (née Marshall), whilst the book is dedicated to his lover Duncan Grant.*

*Eliot praised the book, calling the author a 'far more accomplished author' than Aldous Huxley, with a 'rare and exquisite sensibility' - indeed, 'there is no prose writer of the day who displays more pure technical skill in "writing"'; it is easy to see why Eliot admired the book, with its themes of metamorphosis and what he terms 'the peculiar relations possible between man and beast' close to those he was exploring in some of his own early work.*

**6. Kafka (Franz) *The Metamorphosis*.** Translated by A.L. Lloyd. Parton Press, 1937, FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH, pp. [vi], 74, crown 8vo, original quarter blue cloth with black boards, backstrip lettered in black and the upper board with blue printed label, the label with a couple of small spots, spine slightly rolled, a little wear at corners and some light rubbing to extremities, small ownership blind-stamp to top corner of flyleaf, very good **£2,500**

*An important translation of the author's best-known story.*

*The translator, A.L. ('Bert') Lloyd was an interesting figure: the greater part of his career, and its legacy, being as an ethnomusicologist and folk-singer, which began during a decade in Australia - on his return from which he began a programme of self-education at the British Museum reading room; finding employment in the Foyles foreign book department, and a circle of left-wing intellectual friends that included Dylan Thomas and Jack Lindsay, he began to publish his own writing and translations - including Kafka and Lorca.*

**7. Kenward (James) *Summervale*.** A Fantasy. Constable, 1935, FIRST EDITION, pp. [vi], 249, [1], crown 8vo, original light brown cloth, backstrip lettered in black with a faint waterstain at head, light spotting to edges, ownership inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket by Goetz with a little minor rubbing to extremities, very good **£175**

*The author's second book, with a striking dustjacket design - the rear panel of the same carries some amusing spoof reviews from the 'Country Mouse', 'Cows' Chronicle', 'Dogs' Mercury', etc.*

*A tale of metamorphosis, in which an insurance broker is turned into a dog.*

**8. Longley (Michael) *Metamorphoses*.** Illustrations by Sarah Longley. Rochdale: Andrew J. Moorhouse, 2022, 96/100 COPIES (from an overall edition of 150) signed by the author and the illustrator, title printed in terracotta and black, 16 monochrome illustrations, pp. [40]. tall 8vo,

quarter terracotta morocco over linen boards by Fine Book Bindery, cover with printed label, fine **£150**

*Eight poems of transformation, illustrated by the poet's daughter, including 'Perdix', in which Icarus is changed into a partridge, whose plumage colouring inspired the colour choices of this edition.*

**9. (Old Stile Press.) BROWN (George Mackay) The Girl from the Sea.** A play for voices, written in the Spring of 1984. Images by Michael Onken. Llandogo: Old Stile Press, 2008, FIRST EDITION, X/10 COPIES (from an edition of 205 copies) signed by the artist, the text printed in pale blue-grey on Velin Arches handmade paper, 27 wood-engravings or linocuts printed in pale grey with 15 full-page, these deluxe copies with an additional folder of 4 proofs of Onken's illustrations, each signed and numbered, along with an original watercolour, pp. 49, 4to, original three-quarter grey-blue cloth with Onken design in brown to paper covering on upper board, backstrip lettered in silver, top edge grey, others untrimmed, together with the extra suite of illustrations in a matching cloth drop-back box with onlaid woodcut illustration, fine **£750**

*Delightfully printed and illustrated this poem, a tale of selkies, shapeshifting creatures transforming between human and seal, was first written by George Mackay Brown in 1984, read in public once then left, forgotten. This is its first appearance in print.*

*Onken's illustrations, in various media, are impressive - here joined and enhanced by an original watercolour of selkies exclusive to the deluxe edition.*

#### THE TRANSLATOR'S COPY

**10. Rasp (Renate) A Family Failure.** A novel. Translated from the German by Eva Figes. Calder & Boyars, 1970, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, pp. 126, crown 8vo, original maroon boards, backstrip lettered in gilt with a touch of gentle fading at head, ownership inscription of Eva Figes (the translator) at head of flyleaf, dustjacket with a hint of rubbing, very good **£200**

*A superb association copy of this absurd and disturbing novel of metamorphosis, in which 'Kuno, the obedient son, falls in with his stepfather's plan that he should become a tree' (dustjacket blurb) - with the ownership inscription of the book's translator, Eva Figes, on the flyleaf. Figes, née Unger, had fled Nazi Germany with her parents in 1939, her father having been arrested and sent to Dachau during Kristallnacht the year before.*

*A scarce book, the first appearance in English of this debut novel by a German author who trained as an actor and a graphic artist before embarking on a controversial literary career.*

