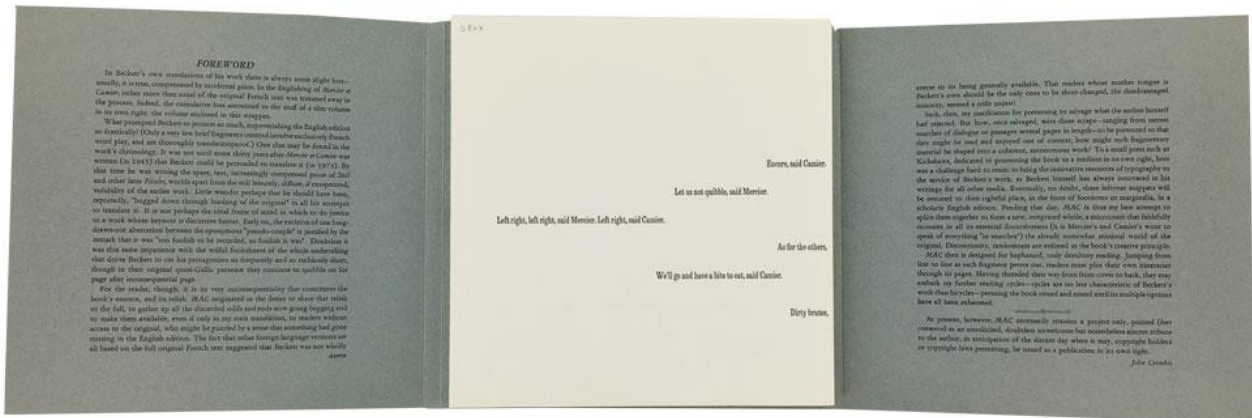




# BLACKWELL'S RARE BOOKS.

## MODERN FIRST EDITIONS: 25 RECENT ACQUISITIONS. March, 2025.

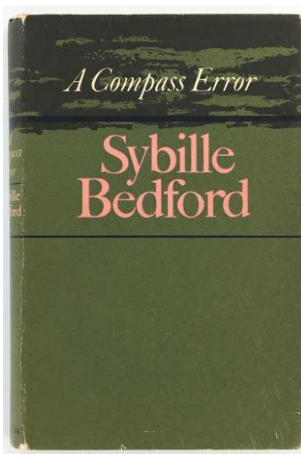


### BECKETT DISJECTA

**1. Beckett (Samuel) MAC, being passages from Mercier et Camier [...]** excluded from the English edition, now gleaned, translated and printed, for private circulation only, by John Crombie [...] in advance of any edition as may eventually be published as and when Copyright Laws or Copyright Owners so permit [i.e., a pirated edition]. Paris: Kickshaws, 1987, ONE OF 40 COPIES, pp. [38], 4to, original wrappers (on which the text begins), enclosed in printed portfolio (this the grey variant), fine **£150**

*A project of considerable scholarly value, whose scarcity can be ascribed to its failure to reach the permission stage that might have granted it wider circulation.*

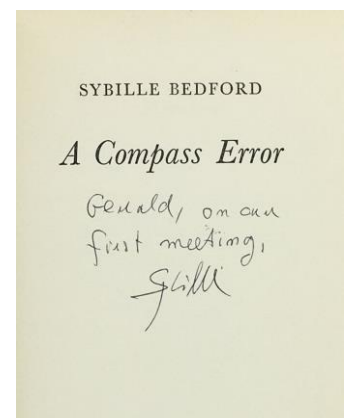
*The text, arranged typographically to read somewhat like a concrete poem ('designed for haphazard, truly desultory reading'), is formed of Beckett's disjecta from his wartime novel (not published in English until almost thirty years later) – it is intended, Crombie explains in his notes to the panels of the portfolio, as a 'doubtless unwelcome but nonetheless sincere tribute to the author'.*



**2. Bedford (Sybille) A Compass Error.** Collins, [1968,] FIRST EDITION, pp. 221, 8vo, original pink boards, backstrip lettered in gilt with lean to spine, a few faint spots to edges, dustjacket a little rubbed at extremities, very good **£225**

*Inscribed by the author on the title-page: 'Gerald, on our first meeting, Sybille'.*

*Following 'A Favourite of the Gods', this novel shifts the emphasis to the daughter, Flavia; situated in the atmosphere of 'political barbarism' (blurb) in the 1930s, her heroine – full of idealism – aspires to a place at Oxford and a writing career, but reality falls short of her high expectations.*



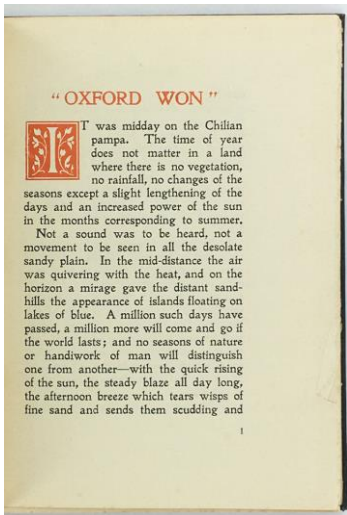
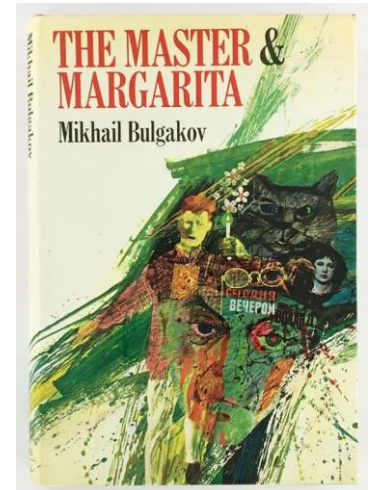
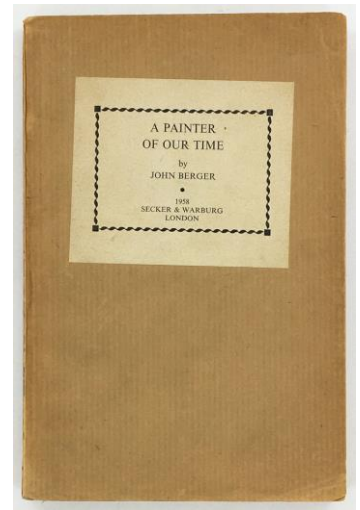
## ART CRITIC ASSOCIATION

**3. Berger (John) *A Painter of Our Time***. Secker & Warburg, 1958, UNCORRECTED PROOF COPY, pencilled note at head of half-title ('ex-libris David Sylvester'), paper a little browned throughout, last few leaves faintly creased at top corner, pp. 238, crown 8vo, original buff proof wrappers, publisher's label to front, the backstrip lettered in manuscript (by David Sylvester?), a little creased, good **£150**

*An excellent association copy of Berger's first book, drawing on his work as an artist and art critic to create a fictional portrait of a Hungarian painter, Janos Lavin – this copy belonging to his fellow art-critic David Sylvester, and thereby aligning two major figures from a boon time in British Art, though the two were adversaries on the pages of *Encounter* and *New Statesman* respectively (Sylvester subsequently, briefly, taking over from Berger as the latter's art critic). The dispute was a lasting one, with Sylvester in a late interview describing Berger as 'damn stupid', and – through the limitations of his socio-political approach – having done 'a lot of damage'.*

**4. Bulgakov (Mikhail) *The Master & Margarita***. [Translated from the Russian by Michael Glenny]. Collins and Harvill Press, 1967, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, pp. [xii], 445, crown 8vo, original green cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, near-contemporary ownership inscription to verso of flyleaf, dustjacket with a design by Alex Jawdokimov, very faintly toned around head, a faint scratch to top corner of front panel, very good **£500**

*An excellent copy of an important book.*

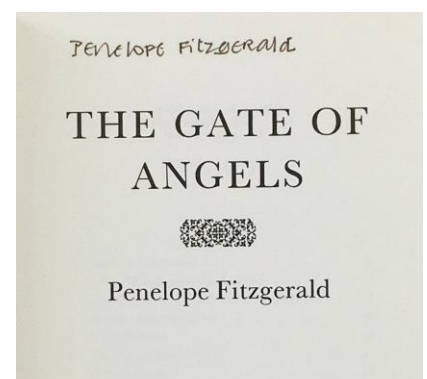


**5. (Cutforth.) 'A.E.C.' [i.e., Arthur Edwin Cutforth] *Tales True and Otherwise***. Jones & Evans, 1912, FIRST EDITION, slight nick to leading edge of first text-page, pp. [viii], 142, crown 8vo, original darkest blue cloth, backstrip and upper board lettered in gilt, faded around the backstrip, t.e.g., fore-edge roughrimmed, free endpapers faintly browned, very good **£200**  
*Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'Miss Saunders, with best wishes from A.E.C., Xmas 1923'.*

*The author was an accountant by profession and an amateur mountaineer – a combination that probably works best that way round. He joined the Alpine Club in 1916. Aside from the present volume and a late memoir (1952), all of his other publications relate directly to his profession. This collection of stories, published in his early thirties, begins with 'Oxford Won', in which the protagonist, on a Chilean pampa, struggles to banish the memory of a boat-race defeat (the author's Cambridge allegiances can be inferred).*

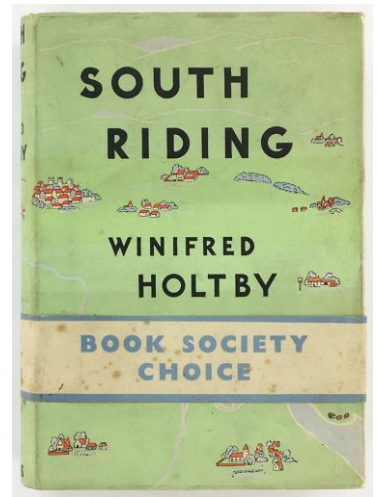
**6. Fitzgerald (Penelope) *The Gate of Angels***. Collins, 1990, FIRST EDITION, pp. 167, crown 8vo, original black boards, dustjacket, fine **£100**

*Signed by the author on the title-page (this offset slightly to facing page). Shortlisted for the Booker Prize, Fitzgerald's novel is set in the fictional Cambridge college of St Angelicus in 1912.*



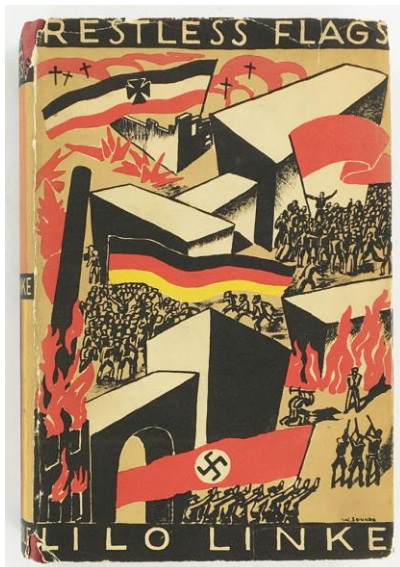
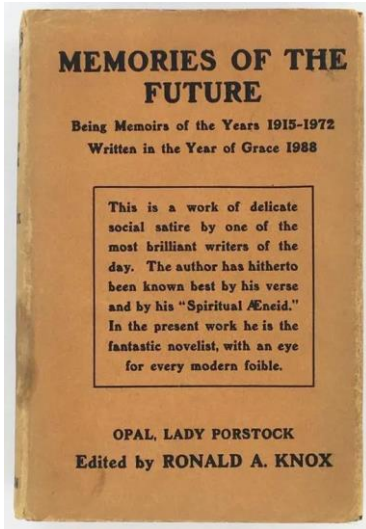
7. **Holtby (Winifred) South Riding. An English Landscape.** Collins, 1936, FIRST EDITION, pp. xvii, 589, crown 8vo, original green cloth, backstrip lettered in purple and a little faded at tips, top edge green, tail edge roughtrimmed, a few spots to edges, faint partial browning to inner margin of free endpapers, dustjacket by J.L. Carstairs with a few faint spots, wraparound band ('Book Society Choice') lightly spotted also, very good  
**£400**

*Winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for fiction; scarce in the wraparound band – and a superb copy overall, of a novel praised on publication by Collins as 'unquestionably the greatest novel we have been privileged to publish (blurb).*



8. **[Knox (Ronald A.)] Memories of the Future**, being Memoirs of the years 1915-1972, Written in the Year of Grace 1988 by Opal, Lady Porstock. Edited by Ronald A. Knox. Methuen, 1923, FIRST EDITION, pp. xv, 244, 8 [ads], crown 8vo, original blue cloth, the backstrip lettered in gilt, cloth faded to backstrip and borders with a few light marks, bottom corners a little worn, edges toned, a few very faint spots to free endpapers, dustjacket with faded backstrip panel (this with faint stain), corners slightly chipped, a small amount of internal tape repair, good  
**£300**

*Knox's novel, his first full-length foray into fiction, is a work of 'delicate social satire' that emphasises – proceeding from the 'fugal variation' established by the Editor's and Author's Prefaces – the continuity of past and future; it is presented as the reminiscences of a noblewoman born during the Great War, and recounting the episodes of her life from the vantage point of her dotage in 1988. A second World War is expected, but not until 1972, on the eve of which her memoirs close.*



9. **Linke (Lilo) Restless Flags.** A German Girl's Story. Constable, 1935, FIRST EDITION, gift inscription to title-page and a few spots to prelims, pp. xix, 354, crown 8vo, original red cloth, backstrip lettered in black. top corner of upper board slightly bruised, endpapers with illustrations by Willi Soukop, his design to the dustjacket also, this slightly nicked, chipped and rubbed, price-clipped, very good  
**£450**

*Scarce. The book's printed dedication to Storm Jameson – 'whom I love, admire, thank'. Jameson had written the introduction to Linke's earlier 'Tale Without End'. The present work is a portrait, beginning in August 1914 and following events in Germany up to 1933, of a middle-class girl to whom 'nothing extraordinary has ever happened [...] but the common fate of her generation seems remarkable enough' (author's Preface). It was reviewed*

in the *New Statesman* as 'an extremely intelligent and sincere account of events which changed the entire mentality of a generation in Germany', and has retained its reputation as a faithful record of events.

**10. Macdonald (A.D.) *Euphrates Exile*.** G. Bell, 1936, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece and 7 further photographic plates, one or two very faint spots, contemporary ownership inscription of R.H. Beadon to half-title (see below), pp. 301, crown 8vo, original orange cloth, backstrip lettered in black, top corners slightly pushed, textblock edges and free endpapers faintly browned, endpaper maps printed in green, **£250**

*Sketches of life in Iraq in the last years of the British mandate, the author 'engaged on intelligence work for the Royal Air Force in the Euphrates linas' (Preface).*

*The copy of Roger Hammet Beadon, who notes beneath his ownership inscription that 'the author of this is a great friend of mine'. Beadon served as a Colonel in the Great War in Africa, France and Italy, at the War Office and at the Supreme War Council at Versailles. He was subsequently a member of the British Delegation to the Peace Conference in Paris, publishing 'Some memories of the Peace Conference' in 1933 as well as a history of the Royal Army Service Corps.*

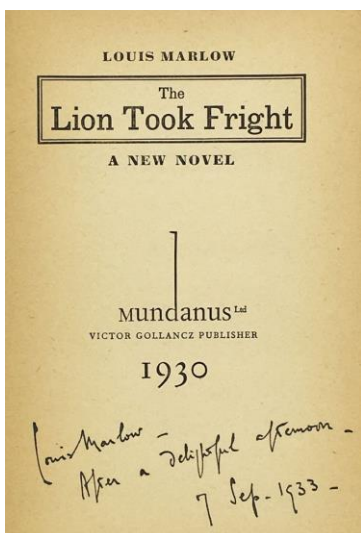


**11. Marlow (Louis, pseud. for Louis Wilkinson) *The Lion Took Fright*.**

A New Novel. Mundanus (Victor Gollancz), 1930, FIRST EDITION, the paper browned throughout, pp. 287, crown 8vo, original yellow wrappers, browned to backstrip and borders, the upper joint a little tender with a couple of very short splits, backstrip slightly chipped at ends, luggage label laid in, to the verso the name 'MORRELL' (see below), good **£100**

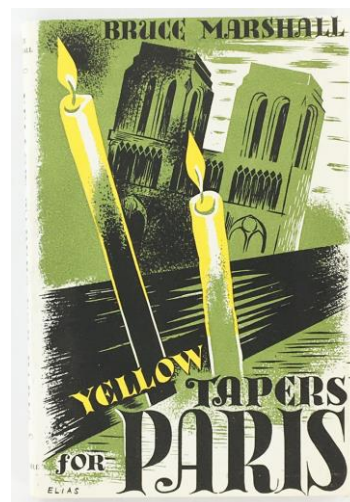
*Inscribed by the author on the title-page: 'Louis Marlow - After a delightful afternoon - 7 Sep. 1933'. The recipient is not named, but the nature of the inscription, in conjunction with the laid-in luggage label (marked 'Morrell'), permits some confidence in the identification of Lady Ottoline Morrell, prominent literary hostess, and her husband Philip.*

*A scarce novel, in Gollancz's series of paperback originals. The printed dedication is to the author's erstwhile school-friend, T.F. Ponys. Whilst at school, the author had cultivated a correspondence with Oscar Wilde, during the latter's exile in France - later associations included Frank Harris and Aleister Crowley.*



**12. Marshall (Bruce) *Yellow Tapers for Paris*.** A Dirge. Constable, 1943, FIRST EDITION, pp. 285, foolscap 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in silver, rubbed at extremities, textblock edges slightly toned, faint spotting to endpapers, contemporary ownership inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket by 'Elias' in superb shape, very good **£200**

*The Scottish author had lived in Paris up until two days before the German occupation, which is also the climax of this short novel. The blurb on the front flap calls it 'a dirge for a death three-parts suicide'. In his Foreword, Marshall terms it 'an attempt to show some of the reasons why France lost the war' - acknowledging it as a fate that could have befallen Britain, 'had it not been for twenty-two miles of sea and the courage of her airmen'.*

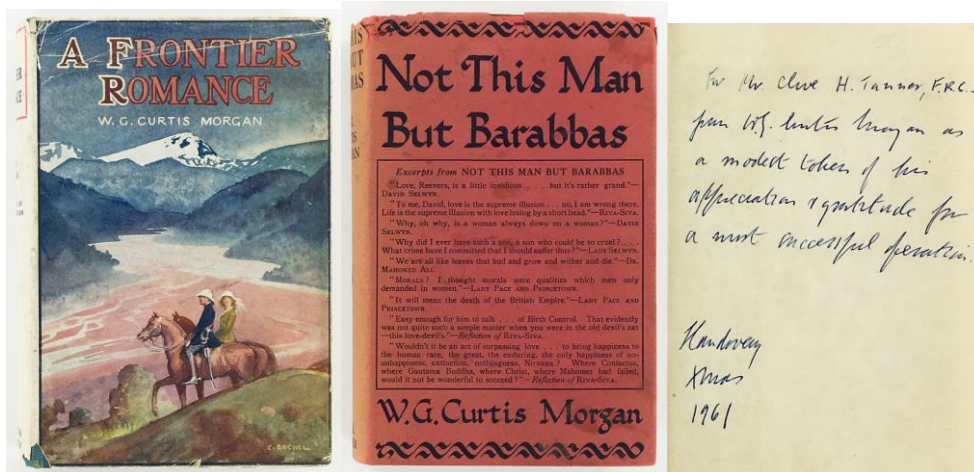


**13. Morgan (W.G. Curtis) *A Frontier Romance*.** Eveleigh Nash & Grayson, 1926, FIRST EDITION, a couple of faint spots to fore-margin of title-page, pp. 283, [3, ads], crown 8vo, original blue cloth, lettering in blind to upper board and in gilt to backstrip, rubbing to extremities, edges spotted, a few very faint spots to free endpapers, dustjacket with a pictorial design signed 'C. Buchel', a little chipped, particularly at head of rear panel, slightly nicked and rubbed with some creasing around a couple of very short closed tears, very good **£475**

*A scarce book, with an attractive dustjacket design.*

*A novel set in Waziristan, where the author perhaps served with the British Indian Army (in which he was a Captain, having earlier served with the South Wales Borderers during the Great War) – certainly, in his prefatory Note, he emphasises his 'endeavour [...] to depict' its setting and action 'with truth and detailed accuracy'.*

*Curtis Morgan was born at Talybont, near Aberystwyth, and attended Queen's College, Oxford between 1911 and 1914; his published output is slim – this perhaps his first book, with another novel ('Not This Man, But Barabbas') following a few years later, followed by a play, 'An Oxford Romance' – he also seems to have forged a brief tennis career, recording a first round defeat in the Wimbledon Championships of 1930. He served in the R.A.F. during the Second World War, and returned to Queen's College to complete an M.A. in 1987.*



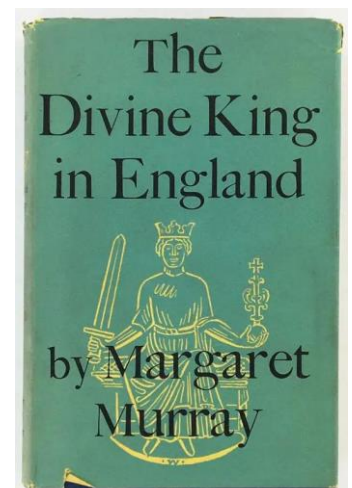
**14. Morgan (W.G. Curtis) *Not This Man But Barabbas*.** Cecil Palmer, 1929, FIRST EDITION, occasional very faint foxing, pp. [ix], 388, crown 8vo, original red cloth, lettered in black to backstrip and upper board, a little fading around the backstrip, edges and endpapers very faintly spotted, dustjacket chipped with gently faded backstrip panel, a few faint marks to front panel, very good **£200**

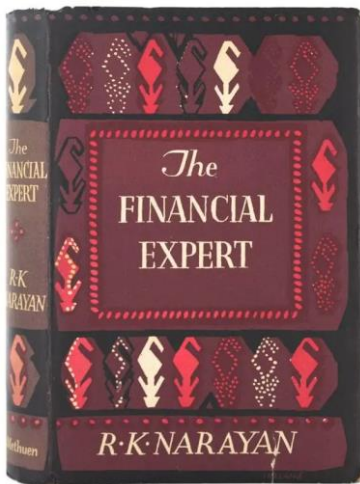
*Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'For Mr. Clive H. Tanner, F.R.C.S., from W.J. Curtis Morgan as a modest token of his appreciation & gratitude for a most successful operation, Xmas 1961'*

*The story of David Selwyn, the present work draws on the author's own experiences in Wales, Oxford and London.*

**15. Murray (Margaret Alice) *The Divine King in England*.** A Study in Anthropology. Faber and Faber, 1954, FIRST EDITION, 12 plates, one or two pencil notes to margins, pp. 279, 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, a touch of rubbing at extremities, top edge a little spotted, ownership inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket slightly chipped and nicked, small spot to backstrip panel, very good **£165**

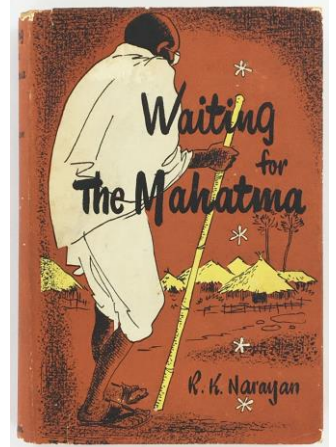
*A scarce work of historical anthropology – tracing the survival of the ancient concept of the divine ruler, and its use of sacrificial rites.*





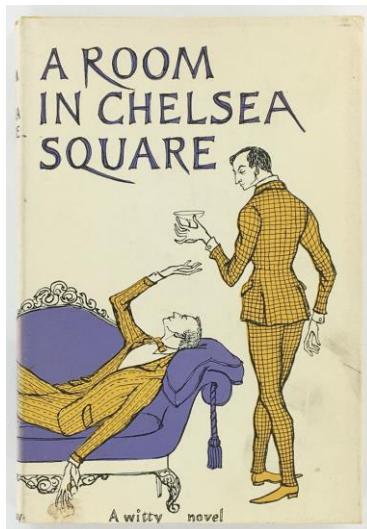
**16. Narayan (R.K.)** *The Financial Expert*. A Novel. With an introduction by Graham Greene. Methuen, 1952, FIRST EDITION, pp. vi, 218, crown 8vo, original tan boards, backstrip lettered in red, a couple of minor dinks to tail edge, Indian bookseller stamp at foot of rear free endpaper, dustjacket with a design by Geoffrey Ireland, touch of fading to the backstrip panel and a very short closed tear at foot of both front and rear panels, very good **£225**

*Set, as usual, in the author's fictional town of Malgudi, the novel has as its protagonist Margayya – referred to by Graham Greene in his Introduction as 'the sad ambitious absurd financial expert [...] perhaps the most engaging of all Mr. Narayan's characters'. A nice copy.*



**17. Narayan (R.K.)** *Waiting for the Mahatma*. A Novel. Methuen, 1955, FIRST EDITION, a couple of incredibly faint spots to half-title pp. 256, crown 8vo, original tan boards, backstrip lettered in red, edges slightly toned, endpaper maps of Malgudi, dustjacket by R.K. Laxman, slightly chipped, nicked and rubbed at extremities, small ink-smudge to rear panel, very good **£150**

*A novel notable for the inclusion of Gandhi as a character, and the effect of the great man's visit to Narayan's usual setting of Malgudi.*



**18. [Nelson (Michael)]** *A Room in Chelsea Square*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1959, FIRST AMERICAN EDITION, pp. 216, crown 8vo, original yellow cloth, vignette by Edward Gorey stamped in purple to upper board, the backstrip lettering by Gorey also in purple, top of backstrip slightly pushed, small price-sticker to top corner of flyleaf, dustjacket with a design by Gorey wrapping round, small marks at foot of front and rear panels and some very light handling, touch of rubbing at extremities, very good **£225**

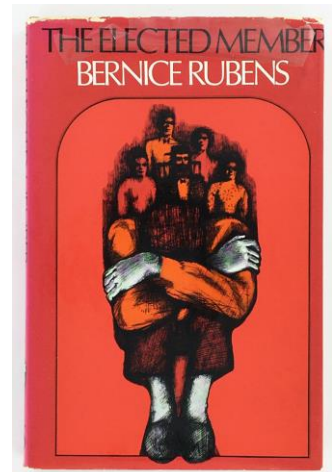
*First published in England the year before, the American edition has a superbly louche dustjacket design by Edward Gorey.*

*A scarce novel of gay London, published anonymously - one presumes - partly on account of thinly-veiled portraits of prominent literary figures: Cyril Connolly, Stephen Spender, Peter Watson. The novel's theme of gay relationships dictated a degree of discretion, its plot concerning a young small-town reporter taken under the wing of Patrick - a 'man of means and influence' in cultural circles, the latter exerted in exchange for sex.*

**19. Rubens (Bernice)** *The Elected Member*. Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1969, FIRST EDITION, pp. 224, crown 8vo, original maroon boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, very gentle knock at head of upper joint, dustjacket with a design by Salim Patell, the backstrip panel a shade faded, gently rubbed to extremities with the laminate lifting at head of front panel, very good **£650**

*A significant and uncommon book. The winner of The Booker Prize in the competition's second year – with Rubens the first female recipient.*

*The novel concerns a barrister 'whose addiction to a hallucinatory drug is destroying his mind', and the effect of his mental illness on his Jewish family.*

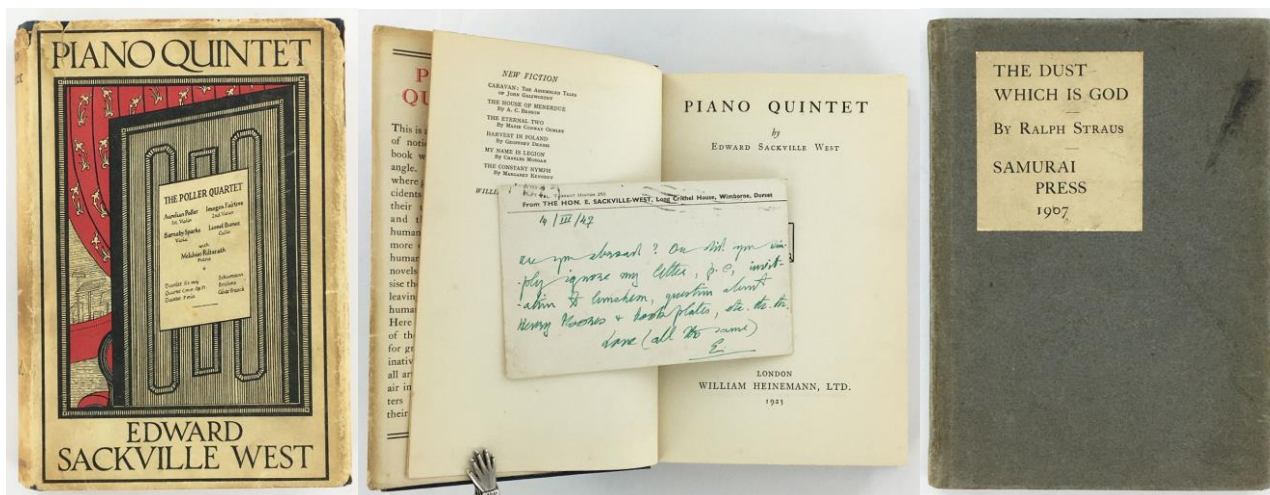


**20. Sackville-West (Edward)** *Piano Quintet*. William Heinemann,

1925, FIRST EDITION, pp. [viii], 311, crown 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, touch of rubbing at extremities, edges & inner margin of free endpapers lightly toned, dustjacket lightly browned (more to backstrip panel) and soiled overall, chipped & nicked at extremities, very good **£1,250**

*Laid in at the front is a card from the author to editor and translator, Roger Senhouse, upbraiding him for failing to respond to his various communications ('Are you abroad? Or did you simply ignore [...]'); a Bloomsbury Group association, Senhouse being Lytton Strachey's latterday partner – and Sackville-West amorously linked with various members of the circle, as well as being the cousin of Vita Sackville-West.*

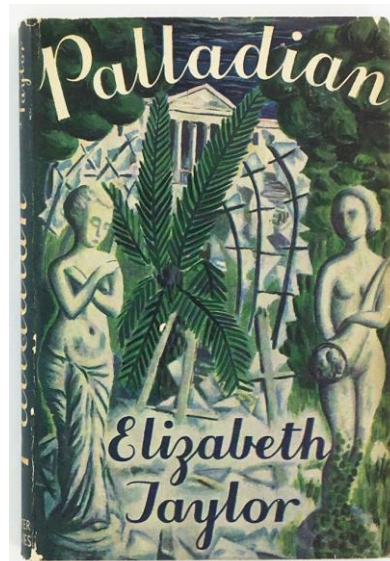
*His first published novel, drawing on his knowledge of music and musicians – he later established himself as a music critic. Scarce in the dustjacket.*



**21. Straus (Ralph) *The Dust Which is God*.** An Undimensional Adventure. Norwich: Samurai Press, 1907, FIRST EDITION, light spotting, a few typos corrected in pencil (recorded in notes to recto of rear free endpaper), pp. 62, foolscap 8vo, original grey boards, backstrip lettered in black and darkened, printed label to upper board, ink-smudge to top corner of same, lightly rubbed, edges & endpapers lightly spotted, some cracking to front hinge, but secure, good **£275**  
*A philosophical short story, which begins in a zoological laboratory – where a young Cambridge graduate, Juan Martafax, is, haplessly, attempting to reanimate a dead animal (unspecified). From his failure materialises a visit from a 'tall dark figure', named as 'the Stranger [...] Diaphantus', with whom he journeys to the 'First World' (a desert in which are the origins of life) and the 'Third World', the realm of 'the superman', in order to comprehend the two poles of human evolution.*

*Straus was born in Manchester, and studied at Pembroke College, Cambridge; he came to have a high standing in literary circles, predominantly as a critic – this is early work, and scarce – only UEA outside of the legal deposit libraries on LibraryHub.*

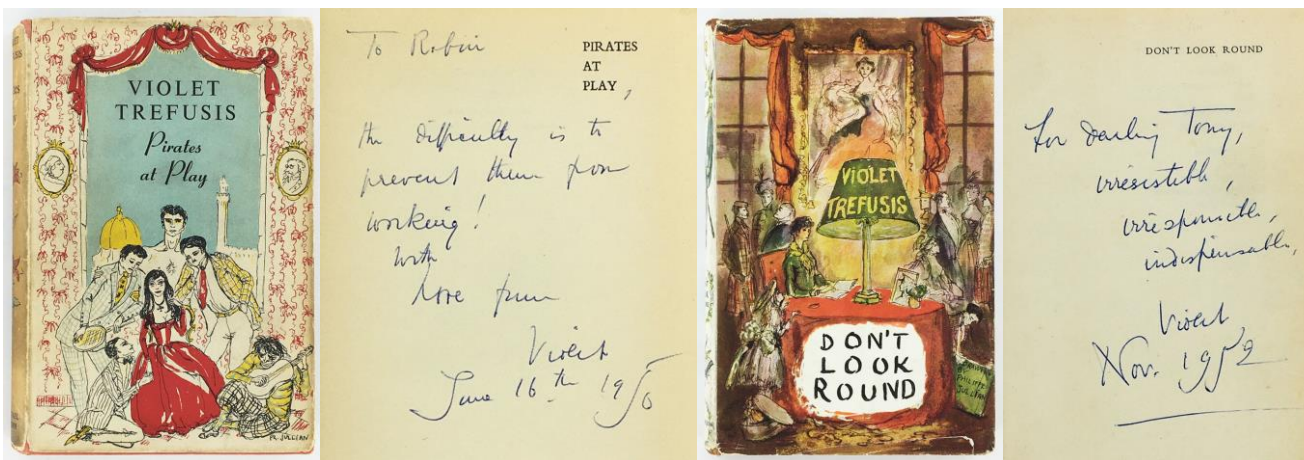
**22. Taylor (Elizabeth) *Palladian*.** Peter Davies, 1946, FIRST EDITION, pp. 192, crown 8vo, original tan cloth, backstrip lettered in green with publisher's device to lower board stamped in same, slight lean to spine, a few small spots to top edge, bookseller ticket at foot of front pastedown and contemporary ownership inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket fractionally nicked and rubbed at extremities, very short splits at ends of front flap-fold, short closed tear at foot of rear panel, very good **£750**  
*Her second book, a superior copy. The story of Cassandra Dashwood (the protagonist's name among a number of allusions to Jane Austen's work) – the governess in 'the ancient fast-crumbling house of the Vanbrughs' (ODNB).*



**23. Trefusis (Violet) Pirates at Play.** Michael Joseph, 1950, FIRST EDITION, vignette by Philippe Jullian to title-page, pp. 232, crown 8vo, original salmon-pink cloth, backstrip lettered in silver with lean to spine, slightly rubbed at extremities, dustjacket with an overall design by Philippe Jullian, a little chipped and nicked at extremities, more so at ends of darkened backstrip panel, this with a spot of internal tape repair at head, very good **£250**

*Inscribed by the author on the half-title: 'To Robin, the difficulty is to prevent them from working! Love from Violet, June 16th 1950'.*

*The recipient was Robin McDouail, Secretary of the Travellers Club and latterly the Carlton Club, a neighbour to Diana and Duff Cooper in Maida Vale and a friend of Violet Trefusis and her sometime-partner Vita Sackville-West. The author was the daughter of Alice Keppel, mistress of Edward VII. In literary terms, she is principally of note for her relationship with Vita Sackville-West (who is portrayed in glowing, but discreet, terms here). On the basis of that, she features as Princess Sasha in 'Orlando' (where she is 'faithless, mutable, fickle') – she retaliated with a barbed portrait of Virginia Woolf in her own 'Broderie anglaise'.*



**24. Trefusis (Violet) Don't Look Round.** Her Reminiscences. With Decorations by Philippe Jullian. Hutchinson, 1952, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece photograph of the author with her mother, each chapter with a headpiece and tail-piece, and further line-drawings by Jullian, pp. 240, crown 8vo, original brown cloth, decoration to upper board and backstrip stamped in gilt, the lettering to latter in same, Jullian drawings to endpapers printed in green, edges toned and free endpapers foxed, dustjacket with a design by Philippe Jullian, a bit nicked and chipped with a couple of spots of internal tape repair, very good **£300**

*Inscribed by the author on the half-title: 'For darling Tony, irresistible, irresponsible, indispensable, Violet, Nov. 1952'. The recipient was the author's friend, Tony Gandarillas, a Chilean playboy who played his way into various social circles around Europe – last encountered by this cataloguer in the company of Lord Berners.*

**25. Tunstall (Beatrice) The Shiny Night.** William Heinemann, 1931, FIRST EDITION, light spotting to prelims, receding into text and recurrent at rear, pp. xii, 430, crown 8vo, original textured green cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt and slightly faded, slightly rubbed at extremities, a few very faint spots to edges, Australian bookseller ticket to front pastedown, dustjacket with attractive wood-engraved design to front panel, a little toned and chipped, with a circular aperture to backstrip panel (this to remove price for Australian market presumably), very good **£250**

*A scarce debut novel with a nineteenth-century rural setting, evoking 'the author's love of the Cheshire and Shropshire countryside' (blurb) and incorporating its customs and superstitions.*

*The rear panel advertises another first novel, of greater moment in posterity – 'The Loving Spirit' by Daphne du Maurier.*

