



BLACKWELL'S RARE BOOKS.

FROM THE LIBRARY OF SIEGFRIED SASSOON.

March, 2026.

1. Alington (Cyril, the Very Rev.) *In Shabby Streets, and Other Verses*. Eton College/Spottiswoode, Ballantyne & Co, 1942, FIRST EDITION, a couple of faint spots encroaching at foot of a couple of pages, pp. 63, foolscap 8vo, original green wrappers, the posthumous library label of Siegfried Sassoon to inside front-cover, a few spots to top edge, very good **£250**

Inscribed by the author on the half-title: 'Siegfried Sassoon, from C.A.A.'; a 4pp. autograph letter to the same from Alington, on his headed paper at 'The Deanery, Durham', thanks Sassoon for a copy of 'Rhymed Ruminations' and discusses his former home at Ramsbury along with various other Wiltshire connections; Alington proceeds to offer the present volume in return and clarifies a few references in the verse – including the poem 'C.A.L.', in memory of Charles Lister, a friend who died in the Great War. The poems 'The School at War – 1914' and 'The Trust 1918' also relate to that conflict, and there are additionally verses pertaining to the ongoing Second World War. The letter closes with some discussion of cricket, and apology for his 'senile ramble'. Alington began as Headmaster at Eton College during the War; he had earlier taught there before leaving to become headmaster at Shrewsbury School. He was educated at Marlborough College then Trinity College, Oxford; following retirement from Eton in 1933, he became Dean at Durham.

2. de la Mare (Walter) *The Three Mulla-Mulgars*. Duckworth, 1910, FIRST EDITION, colour frontispiece and one further colour plate by J.R. Monsell, only the stub of the erratum-slip following dedication-page now present (this identifying the artist), tiny nick at head of dedication-page, pp. vii, 312, crown 8vo, original green cloth with lettering in gilt to backstrip and upper board, the latter with decoration stamped in black, lower board with publisher's device stamped in black, backstrip lightly worn at tips, lean to spine, gently rubbed at extremities, t.e.g., free endpapers faintly browned, good **£120**

The copy of Siegfried Sassoon, to whom de la Mare was both a friend and a great influence - with his posthumous library-label to the front pastedown. The author's first book for children.

3. de la Mare (Walter) & Harold Jones (Illustrator) *This Year: Next Year*. Faber and Faber, 1937, FIRST EDITION, richly illustrated throughout, the occasional very faint spot, pp. [64], 4to, original illustrated boards with an overall design by Harold Jones, a couple of very faint spots at head of lower board, light scratch at foot of same with a tiny amount of surface abrasion at bottom corner, backstrip slightly sunned, top edge a trifle dusty, the endpapers illustrated by Jones, the free endpapers with a few faint spots at head, dustjacket repeating board design, backstrip panel toned, a little chipping at extremities with a couple of small nicks, a few faint spots, the rear panel carrying a couple of light marks, very good **£200**

The copy of the author's friend, Siegfried Sassoon, with his posthumous library label in the corner of the front pastedown.

A work whose considerable charm derives both from de la Mare's verses for children and, in greater part, from the lively and colourful illustrations by Harold Jones - this being among his earliest book-illustration.

4. de la Mare (Walter) Inward Companion. Poems. Faber and Faber, 1950, FIRST EDITION, pp. 97, 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt (partially against a maroon ground), edges untrimmed, laid in at the rear various clippings including reviews of this work and other de la Mare poems, dustjacket a little tatty, very good **£60**

The copy of de la Mare's friend, poet Siegfried Sassoon, with his posthumous library label to the front pastedown.

5. (de la Mare.) BRAIN (Russell) Tea with Walter de la Mare. Faber and Faber, 1957, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece portrait of de la Mare by Andrew Freeth, pp. 127, crown 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, partially against a white ground, slight lean to spine, obituary for de la Mare laid in along with clipped photograph of author, bookseller ticket and library-label of Siegfried Sassoon to front pastedown, dustjacket a little tatty, good **£55**

Siegfried Sassoon's copy of this memoir of his friend by the noted neurologist, later Lord Brain.

6. Freeman (John) John Freeman's Letters. Edited by Gertrude Freeman and Sir John Squire. With an Introduction by Walter de la Mare. Macmillan, 1936, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece photograph of the author, pp. xxv, 395, [1], 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, top edge faintly spotted, contemporary bookmark (for a boot-maker) loosely inserted, very good **£40**

The copy of Siegfried Sassoon, with his posthumous library label to the front pastedown. A good association copy of this volume, collecting letters to fellow Georgian Poets, et al.

‘S.S. FROM R.H.’

7. Hodgson (Ralph) Silver Wedding, and Other Poems. Minerva, OH: Printed (by the Boerner Printing Co.) for the Author, 1941, FIRST EDITION, the decorations [by the author?] hand-coloured throughout, pp. 20, 12mo, original stapled yellow wrappers, the illustrations to front (including inside) and rear covers hand-coloured, the staples slightly rusted, very good **£400**

[With:] Hodgson (Ralph) The Muse & The Mastiff Minerva, OH: Printed (by the Boerner Printing Co.) for the Author, 1942, FIRST EDITION, pencilled note to the printer on p. 9, pp. 20, 12mo, original stapled pink wrappers, staples slightly rusted, very good

Both booklets are inscribed by the author on the inside front-cover, to his friend Siegfried Sassoon: ‘S.S. from R.H.’, in their respective years of publication. Each has Sassoon's posthumous library label at the foot of same; the pair together in the original mailing envelope addressed in Hodgson's hand to Sassoon at Heytesbury House (this, sent across the Atlantic in wartime, stamped as ‘Passed’ by the censor to the front).

Sassoon met Hodgson in 1920, at Walter Turner's house, fulfilling a desire formed half a decade earlier by his admiration for ‘The Bull’ and ‘The Song of Honour’; though characterised by marked differences in upbringing and outlook - Hodgson was a northern man of little formal education, passionately opposed to hunting (one of the poems here, ‘Verses from To Deck a Woman’, is a tirade against the feather trade) - he nevertheless became ‘one of his closest and lifelong friends’ (Moorcroft Wilson, ‘Siegfried Sassoon’, p. 107).

These chapbooks from the poet's years on a farm in Minerva, Ohio - where he had settled with his third wife at the end of the 1930s - are produced in the style of the ‘Flying Flame’ imprint that he had set up with Claud Lovat Fraser and Holbrook Jackson before the Great War; to the rear they carry the device of ‘Packington's Pound’, defined beneath as ‘Late “Flying Flame”, London, England’, in acknowledgement of the revival. Like their predecessors, they were made available, where illustrated, in dearer hand-coloured versions - the copy of ‘Silver Wedding’ here sent to his friend conforming to the superior issue (the other is unillustrated).

BEAUTIFULLY INSCRIBED TO SIEGFRIED SASSOON

8. Hodson (Haro) The Visitor. Poems. William Heinemann, 1951, FIRST EDITION, pp. [viii], 40, foolscap 8vo, original green cloth, gilt lettering to backstrip, a smattering of faint spots to top edge, endpapers with designs by the author, dustjacket with an illustration (by the author?) wrapping round, little nick at head of backstrip panel, very good **£250**

Inscribed by the author to the verso of the flyleaf, ‘SS, with love from HH’, this within Hodson's sketch of a dove rising towards the sun - at the foot of the same he has added ‘(I'm sorry about the bad ones)’ next to a suitably

dismayed dog. Hodson was primarily known as a cartoonist. The dove and dog occur in another book inscribed by Hodson and Sassoon that we have catalogued, suggesting them to be part of their private iconography. Though Hodson was almost forty years Sassoon's junior, their friendship was an enduring one, and lasted from the latter half of the 1940s until the poet's death; their correspondence is held at Cambridge.

9. Sinkinson (Walter N.) *The Battle of Britain, and other poems.* Wakefield: Printed for the Author at West Yorkshire Printing Co, n.d. [circa 1946,] FIRST EDITION, pp. [34], crown 8vo, original stapled pale-grey wrappers, a little darkened around spine with a couple of faint marks, the staples slightly rusted, the author's typed compliments slip laid in, very good **£80**

Inscribed by the author on the title-page: 'To Siegfried Sassoon Esq., poet. With best wishes, W.N. Sinkinson, July 1946'. The recipient's posthumous library-label is on the facing inside-cover.

Sinkinson was based in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire; he worked as a signaller and was primarily known as a railway-poet - this interest only foregrounded in one poem here, 'The Railways'. Along with a couple of war-poems, it includes verses on Robert Bridges and Ralph Hodgson, which were likely of passing interest to Sassoon.

10. Sitwell (Edith) *Bath.* Faber and Faber, 1932, FIRST EDITION, Whistler design printed in red preceding half-title, frontispiece and 15 plates after various artists, pp. 288, 8vo, original pink cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt and slightly darkened, top corners pushed, t.e.g., other edges untrimmed and a little spotted, faint partial browning to free endpapers, the dustjacket by Rex Whistler, his design showing the author at work, borne by clouds and cherubs over the town, some faint dustsoiling and a few little spots near flap-folds, the backstrip panel a little darkened, very good **£500**

Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'Siegfried Sassoon, from Edith Sitwell'. The recipient's posthumous library label is at the foot of the facing pastedown.

Sassoon and the author, whose collaboration in bringing Wilfred Owen's poetry into print forms a major part of the literary legacy of both, enjoyed a long fondness, and admiration for one another's work – occasionally aggravated, as could be expected, by petty squabbles; Sassoon had written to Blunden in March 1930, concerning the latter's pending review of her work on Alexander Pope, that he might expect 'a rude letter [...] Nothing satisfies her except flatulent praise'. Whether her 'Bath' produced the desired flatulence from Sassoon is not recorded.

11. Smith (Chard Powers) *Along the Wind.* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1925, FIRST EDITION, pp. [viii], 35, 8vo, original quarter black cloth with grey boards, lettered in silver to backstrip and upper board, a little knocked at board-edges, some light wear, textblock edges toned, bookplate of Richard Emeny to flyleaf, good **£50**

Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'For Siegfried Sassoon - from an admirer - Chard Powers Smith, 1927'. The volume is dedicated, in memoriam, to his wife Olive Cary Macdonald, who had died the year before - in the same year, Ernest Hemingway published the short story 'Mr. and Mrs. Elliot', held by Smith to be an unflattering portrait of their marriage.

12. Stead (William Force) *Festival in Tuscany, and Other Poems* Songs and Elegies. Richard Cobden-Sanderson, 1927, FIRST EDITION, title-page printed in black and red, pp. 55, crown 8vo, original green cloth, backstrip with printed label slightly darkened, edges untrimmed, free endpapers a little browned, very good **£150**

Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'Siegfried Sassoon, with the regards of the author, WFS. "Doves Dinner" 1927'. The recipient's posthumous library-label is at the foot of the facing pastedown.

*Stead, an American, had come to Oxford to study at Queen's College, Oxford – during his time there he befriended Yeats and was a regular visitor to the Morrells' Garsington Manor, likely the basis for his acquaintance with Sassoon. A few years later, whilst Chaplain of Worcester College, he assisted T.S. Eliot, another Garsington habitué (and something of a *bête noire* for Sassoon), with the momentous decision of his conversion, baptising him in the church at Finstock.*

13. Trotter (A.F., Mrs) Old Cape Colony. A Chronicle of Her Men and Houses, from 1652 to 1806. Selwyn & Blount, n.d., frontispiece and a couple of further portrait plates, illustrations to the text from sketches by the author, title printed in red, pp. 320, crown 8vo, original quarter green cloth with dark grey boards, backstrip gently faded with slightly chipped printed label, slight lean to spine, a few little spots to edges and endpapers, good **£65**

Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'For Siegfried Sassoon, from A.F. Trotter' - the recipient's posthumous library-label is on the facing pastedown.

Alys Fane Trotter, née Keatinge in Dublin, had researched and written the present work whilst her husband, Alexander, was employed by the government in South Africa. The first edition was with Constable in 1903; the present edition is undated, perhaps circa 1920s.

14. Warburg (Joan) The Golden Boy, and other poems. The Mitre Press, [1966,] FIRST EDITION, pp. 52, crown 8vo, original green cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, posthumous library-label of Siegfried Sassoon to front pastedown (see below), dustjacket with a couple of very faint marks to front panel, near fine **£60**

Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'To Mr Sassoon, A slight return for much kindness, from Joan Warburg'. A 2pp. autograph letter expresses the same sentiments, whilst also hoping 'that your health is improving, so that you yourself will be writing some more'. Sassoon died the following year.

The nature of Warburg's debt relates to the encomium from Sassoon quoted on the dustjacket's front-flap, along with one from his friend Edmund Blunden.

Warburg was the sister of publisher Frederic Warburg. Her first collection, 'Gossamer and Honey' was published during the Great War, the subject of its verses, whilst the author was still at school. The present collection is structured around the seasons and, with the exception of a few poems at the close grouped under the heading 'Scenes Abroad', concerns places around England (Evesham Vale, Stratford, the Suffolk coast, etc.)