

# SIEGFRIED SASSOON:

INCLUDING BOOKS FROM HIS LIBRARY



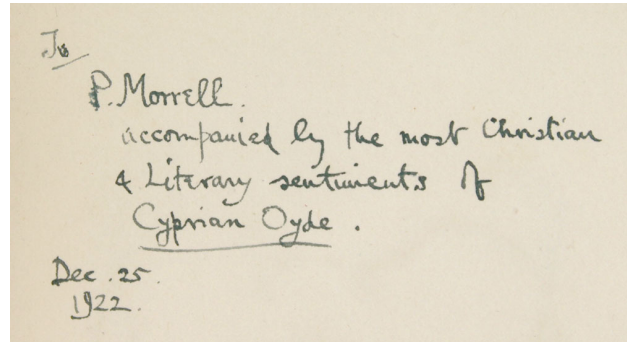
## BLACKWELL'S RARE BOOKS

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FROM 'CYPRIAN OYDE' [I.E., SIEGFRIED SASSOON]

**1. Hall (S.C., Editor) *The Amulet*.** A Christian and Literary Remembrancer. Frederick Westley and A. H. Davis, 1832, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece, title-page vignette and 10 engraved plates, tissue-guards, pp. viii, 318, [4, list] contemporary black morocco, backstrip lettered in gilt, rubbed, a.e.g., front hinge starting, open between textblock and rear free endpaper (but holding), fair **£150**

*With a gift inscription on the flyleaf, from Siegfried Sassoon to Philip Morrell, the Liberal politician: 'To P. Morrell accompanied by the most Christian & Literary sentiments of Cyprian Oyde. Dec. 25, 1922' – this was a piscine nickname that Sassoon had acquired at the Morrells home at Garsington House, a formative location for the author both in terms of his writing and his pacifism, apparently from his tendency for carping about trivial matters.*



SIEGFRIED SASSOON'S COPY

**2. Benson (Robert Hugh) *The History of Richard Raynal, Solitary*.** Sir Isaac Pitman, 1906, FIRST EDITION, title-page printed in black and red, a few spots to prelims, and the occasional spot to borders within, pp. 257, crown 8vo, later binding of half blue morocco, blue cloth sides, backstrip gilt in compartments between five raised bands, lettered gilt direct, t.e.g., others lightly spotted, marbled endpapers, very good **£100**

*The copy of Siegfried Sassoon, with his pencilled ownership inscription to the initial blank. A Catholic novel.*

**3. Doughty (Charles M.) *Adam Cast Forth*.** Duckworth, 1908, FIRST EDITION, some light spotting, pp. [x], 124, crown 8vo, original green cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, publisher device in blind to lower board, t.e.g., others with a few very faint spots, Sassoon library label to corner of front pastedown (see below), good **£125**

*Siegfried Sassoon's copy, with his ownership inscription to the front pastedown dated to the year of publication. Doughty was an important literary influence on the young Sassoon: in 'The Weald of Youth', he recounts having sent him a letter in 1907 to express his admiration, his delight at receiving one in reply, and his then using an epigraph from Doughty in his early 'Sonnets and Verses' – a copy of which he presented in tribute to the older author.*

SIEGFRIED SASSOON'S ANNOTATED COPY

**4. Doughty (Charles M.) *The Titans*.** Duckworth, 1916, FIRST EDITION, some light spotting, occasional annotations in ink or pencil by Siegfried Sassoon (see below), original green cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, publisher device in blind to lower board, the cloth a shade faded, edges and endpapers a little browned, Sassoon library label to corner of front pastedown (see below), clipping of Desmond MacCarthy review of Robert Bridges laid in, good **£150**

*Siegfried Sassoon's copy, with his ownership inscription to the front pastedown. Sassoon's markings gloss Doughty's use of Old English words.*

**5. Doughty (Charles M.) *Mansoul (or, The Riddle of the World)*.** Selwyn & Blount, 1920, FIRST EDITION, pp. [vi], 194, [12, list], crown 8vo, original green cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt and a shade faded, lightly handled, pinprick hole to upper joint, top edge slightly dusty, Sassoon library label to corner of front pastedown (see below), good **£100**

*Siegfried Sassoon's copy, with his ownership inscription to the front pastedown.*



WITH A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

**6. Sassoon (Siegfried) *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer*.** Faber and Faber, 1930, FIRST EDITION, 539/750 COPIES printed on English handmade paper and signed by the author, pp. 334, 8vo, original blue buckram, backstrip lettered in gilt and browned, knock at head of upper joint and to top corner of upper board, t.e.g., others untrimmed and faintly spotted, some faint spots to endpapers with bookseller ticket at foot of front pastedown, good **£650**

*Laid in is a photograph of Sassoon's home, Heytesbury House, and an autograph letter signed from the author to a Mr Low, dated 8.8.46 and in its original envelope, in which Sassoon explains that 'the house which you and your sister looked at is the one that belonged to "Captain Huxtable"', referring him to the relevant passage in 'Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man', and explaining that Huxtable recurs in later memoirs 'under his real name of Ruxton'; he goes on to describe his childhood home, Weirleigh, but advises that his mother is 'nearly 90 & not equal to seeing visitors, so I fear you could do no more than peep over the gate, or make a stealthy inspection of the garden', the gardener being 'quite amiable' - closing with the statement that 'I am glad my books have been a pleasure to you & quite understand about your pilgrimage'.*

WITH A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

**7. [Sassoon (Siegfried)] *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer*.** By the Author of *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man*. Faber & Faber, 1930, FIRST EDITION, pp. 334, crown 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt and faded, top edge pink, a couple of faint spots to fore-edge, very good **£300**

*Tipped to the flyleaf is a later autograph letter from the author, to Nancye Bridgeman, née Nicholson and the widow of Orlando Clive Bridgeman – a flying ace of the Great War.*

*The letter, dated 27.12.46, follows a recent visit by the recipient and relays details of a property in Heytesbury, the Wiltshire village where Sassoon lived from 1933 until his death, which has recently become available, and which he encourages her to 'try for', explaining its pros and cons; in a P.S., he thanks her for her recent visit, but explains that he was 'rather tired in the head' on account of the 'desperately hard work I'm doing at my *Life of Meredith*'.*

**8. (Sassoon.) 'Pinchbeck Lyre' [pseud. for Siegfried Sassoon] *Poems*.** Duckworth, 1931, FIRST EDITION, usual light foxing, pp. 22, foolscap 8vo, original black boards, lettered in green to upper board, free endpapers faintly spotted, original tissue jacket, very good **£60**  
*Parodies of poems by Humbert Wolfe.*

SIEGFRIED SASSOON'S COPY, 'IN MEMORY OF EDMUND'S VISIT'

**9. Smith (Logan Pearsall) *All Trivia*.** Trivia; More Trivia; Afterthoughts; Last Words [Crown Constables series]. Constable, 1933, FIRST COMPLETE EDITION, small spot at head of prelims, pp. 171, [3], crown 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip with lettering and a lattice design in gilt, top edge blue, the Sassoon library label (see below) at foot of front pastedown along with a Sotheran's ticket, very good **£125**

*Inscribed to Siegfried Sassoon by his friend, Dennis Silk, on the flyleaf, with a reference to Edmund Blunden: 'S.S. from D.W.R.S. in memory of Edmund's visit. 11th August, 1961'.*

*Jean Moorcroft Wilson records Sassoon having read the first part of Smith's series during the war, no doubt appreciating its mood of leisure and escapism; the occasion referred to in the inscription was a gathering of friends to listen to the test match – Silk was himself a first-class cricketer, and the first line of the book, under the heading 'Happiness', refers to 'Cricketers on village greens'.*

**10. Wells (H.G.) *Experiment in Autobiography*.** Discoveries and Conclusions of a Very Ordinary Brain (Since 1866). [Complete in 2 Vols.] Victor Gollancz & The Cresset Press, 1934, FIRST EDITIONS, numerous photographic plates and the author's 'Picshuas' to the text, occasional faint spots, pp. 414; vi, 417-840, crown 8vo, original orange cloth, backstrips lettered in gilt and faded, light dustsoiling to cloth, one corner of second volume knocked, the Sassoon library label (see below) at foot of each front pastedown, good **£350**

*The copies of Siegfried Sassoon, enriched with a variety of ephemera collected by him pertaining to the author, which speak of their friendship.*

*The most personal of these are two 'Change of Address' cards sent to Sassoon by Wells, and the 8pp. printed memorial address for Jane Wells, who died in 1927, written by her husband but delivered by T.E. Page – at which one assumes Sassoon was in attendance (this pamphlet is scarce, the BL, Bodley and Senate House only on LibraryHub).*

*There is a printed letter by Wells regarding the London critics' savaging of Stravinsky's 'Les Noces' (dated June 18th, 1926), with the remainder of the material formed of newspaper clippings regarding Wells from various years. These include Wells' article in the Sunday Express, October 12927, regarding 'The Possibility of War Between Britain and America', a report on the panic engendered in 1938 by Orson Welles' radio adaptation of 'The War of the Worlds', the TLS review of this work, obituaries and posthumous tributes, including that of Desmond MacCarthy in the Sunday Times and a later memoir by Bertrand Russell in The Listener. In one of the latter clippings, Sassoon has made underlinings and a comment that reveal his high estimation of his friend: headed simply 'H.G. Wells', Sassoon has added 'Why not give [...] his full due?' and underlined in pencil the various moderating adverbs in the piece that stint the praise.*

*Wells encouraged the younger author, and supported him in his objection to military service. In the early 1920s, the two socialised together at the Reform Club, and they were regular correspondents in the decades that their careers overlapped.*



## SASSOON'S OWN COPY

**11. [Peace Pledge Union.] [Programme:] The Dr. Sheppard's Peace Demonstration.** Royal Albert Hall, July 14, 1935. [1935,] single folded sheet with Arthur Wragg illustration (captioned 'Weep not for me but for yourselves') to front, pp. [4], crown 8vo, horizontal fold, front dust-darkened to borders and with a small mark, good **£100**

*The copy of Siegfried Sassoon, who is among the speakers listed (reading 'Extracts from his War Poems'), with the Sotheby's library label to inside front-cover.*

*This was a landmark meeting of some 7,000 recruits to Canon Sheppard's cause, which the following year became the Peace Pledge Union; the other speakers were Edmund Blunden, Maude Royden and Frank Crozier.*

*Wragg's drawing to the front is a depiction of the Cenotaph encasing a soldier dripping with blood – sufficiently shocking for the London Underground to refuse to display it. An interesting record of the cause for peace being mobilised in response to the growing threat of war.*



**12. (Peace Pledge Union.) [Programme:] PEACE PLEDGE UNION.** Royal Albert Hall, November 27, 1936. [1936,] single folded sheet with Arthur Wragg illustration (captioned 'Ye shall not pass') to front, pp. [4], crown 8vo, vertical crease with a little corner-creasing also, subscription form for 'Peace News' tipped in, laid-in leaflet outlining 'Three Recommendations for Members of the Peace Pledge Union', good **£80**

*The programme for the first mass-demonstration of Dick Sheppard's organisation under this name – the Royal Albert Hall had hosted his event for the same cause the year before and the speakers on both occasions included Siegfried Sassoon, whose poem 'A Prayer from 1936' ('specially written for the Peace Pledge Union') is printed within this leaflet. Aldous Huxley and George Lansbury are among the other speakers. The 'Three Recommendations' are an insistence not to participate in peace-time activities that are preparation for war: practice for black-outs and gas drills, conscription, and Red Cross work.*

*An interesting record of the cause for peace being mobilised in response to the growing threat of further conflict.*

## INSCRIBED BY SIEGFRIED SASSOON

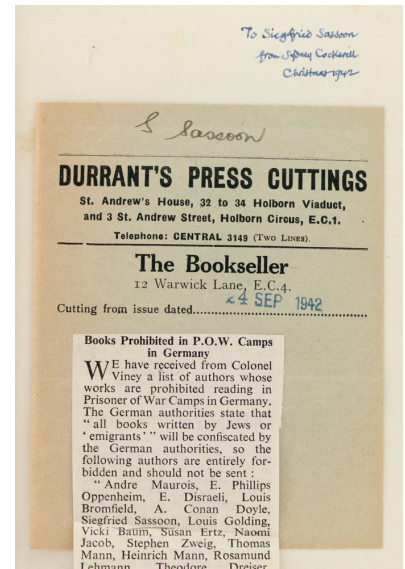
**13. Knox (Ronald A.) Let Dons Delight, being Variations on a Theme in an Oxford Common-Room.** Sheed & Ward, 1939, FIRST EDITION, pp. [viii], 280, crown 8vo, original black cloth, backstrip gilt lettering a little rubbed, the cloth rubbed to extremities with a few marks, lean to spine, top edge yellow, bookplate of Dennis Silk to front pastedown (see below) with Heffer's ticket at foot of same, fair **£150**

Inscribed by Siegfried Sassoon, to his friend, the cricketer and teacher Dennis Silk: 'D.S. from S.L.S. [monogram], Heytesbury. Aug. 1954'. Monsignor Knox was one of the most important figures of Sassoon's later years, aiding his entry into the Roman Catholic church, but his admiration of Knox's work pre-dated their friendship – around the time of this inscription, he wrote to Blunden of his first meeting with Knox, whom he considered 'entirely delightful', and mentioning that 'I had just read his *Let Dons Delight* for the fourth time (about the best Oxford book ever written)'

The author's 'secular masterpiece' (ODNB), set in the fictional college of Simon Magus; 'a kind of Cavalcade of Oxford religious and social opinions', in which the narrator - asleep in a common-room - hears the conversations there from seven ages (beginning in 1588 and then at fifty year intervals), before waking to that in his own time. The author had attended Balliol, before a fellowship at neighbouring Trinity College.

**14. Stark (Freya) Letters from Syria.** John Murray, 1942, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece photograph and 24 photographic plates at rear, map preceding text, pp. x, [1], 194, crown 8vo, original green cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt with facsimile of author's signature in gilt to upper board, lean to spine, gentle rubbing at extremities, a couple of dinks to edges, a couple of small marks, a few faint spots to edges, the Sassoon library label to corner of front pastedown, a couple of spots to flyleaf, good **£135**

The copy of Siegfried Sassoon, inscribed to him on the flyleaf by Sydney Cockerell – Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum and erstwhile Secretary to the Kelmescott Press, with whom he had a long and, by virtue of the older man's influence in cultural circles, useful friendship; it was Cockerell who introduced the poet to the Stanbrook Abbey Press, who printed some of his final work. Laid in is a press cutting sent to Sassoon, from *The Bookseller* in September 1942, discussing 'Books Prohibited in P.O.W. Camps in Germany', the list including Sassoon.



INSCRIBED TO SASSOON BY HARO HODSON, WITH TWO ORIGINAL WATERCOLOURS

**15. MacCarthy (Mary) A Nineteenth-Century Childhood.** With an Introduction by John Betjeman. Hamish Hamilton, 1948, FIRST BETJEMAN EDITION, one or two faint spots, pp. 100, crown 8vo, original straw cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt (largely against a pale blue ground), spine cocked, the Sassoon library label (see below) at foot of front pastedown, dustjacket with backstrip panel gently sunned and a couple of nicks, very good **£300**

The copy of Siegfried Sassoon, inscribed to him at the head of the flyleaf: 'To S.S., with Every Felicitous Wish for Christmas and for the New Year – from h.h.', this being artist Haro Hodson who has filled the rest of the flyleaf with a vivid ink and watercolour sketch that evokes the theme of the book, the sickly-looking Queen Victoria encountering at her window a young girl riding the crest of a wave; on the rear free endpaper, there is another Hodson painting, of a dog going to sleep, captioned 'finis'.

The book dates from the year of Sassoon and Hodson's first friendship. Though Hodson was almost forty years his junior, it was an enduring one and lasted until the poet's death; their correspondence is held at Cambridge.



## A SUBJECT'S COPY

**16. MacCarthy (Desmond) *Memories*.** Forewords by Raymond Mortimer & Cyril Connolly. MacGibbon & Kee, 1953, FIRST EDITION, one or two faint spots, pp. 223, [1, ads], 8vo, original brown cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, one corner slightly knocked, a few tiny spots to edges, faint partial browning to free endpapers, front pastedown with bookseller ticket and the Sassoon library label (see below) at foot, dustjacket slightly chipped and nicked, the backstrip panel faded, very good **£125**

*The copy of Siegfried Sassoon, who is among the portraits of authors included in this collection of the critic's essays, laid in is a press cutting of MacCarthy's review, in the Sunday Times of 24th October 1937, of 'The Complete Memoirs of George Sherston', which – as indicated by the review's title – gives greater attention to an assessment of Sassoon's poetry, of which MacCarthy had been an earlier supporter and which he here continues to praise.*

## SIEGFRIED SASSOON'S PROOF COPY

**17. Verney (John) *Going to the Wars*.** A Journey in Various Directions. Collins, 1955, FIRST EDITION, ADVANCE COPY, pp. 255, crown 8vo, original plain buff proof wrappers, light reading crease to spine, small waterstain at foot of backstrip, the Sassoon library label to inside front-cover, very good **£135**

*The copy of Siegfried Sassoon, an author eminent in the field of war memoirs, with a letter from the Mark Bonham-Carter at the publisher laid in, dated 18th January 1955: 'Dear Siegfried, I enclose [...] a copy of a book [...] by a youngish artist [...] a great admirer of yours, and I know it would give him the greatest pleasure if you read his book and enjoyed it'.*

*Sassoon's opinion of the artist's memoir of service in the Second World War is unrecorded – but it is considered one of the finest of that conflict, and was advertised, as Blunden noted in a contemporary letter to his friend, as 'In the Tradition of Siegfried Sassoon'.*

**18. Sassoon (Siegfried) *Lenten Illuminations and Sight Sufficient*.** Downside Abbey, Bath: Downside Review, 1959, 111/200 COPIES, printed on handmade paper, pp. [11], crown 8vo, original sewn grey wrappers, touch of creasing at extremities, very good **£60**

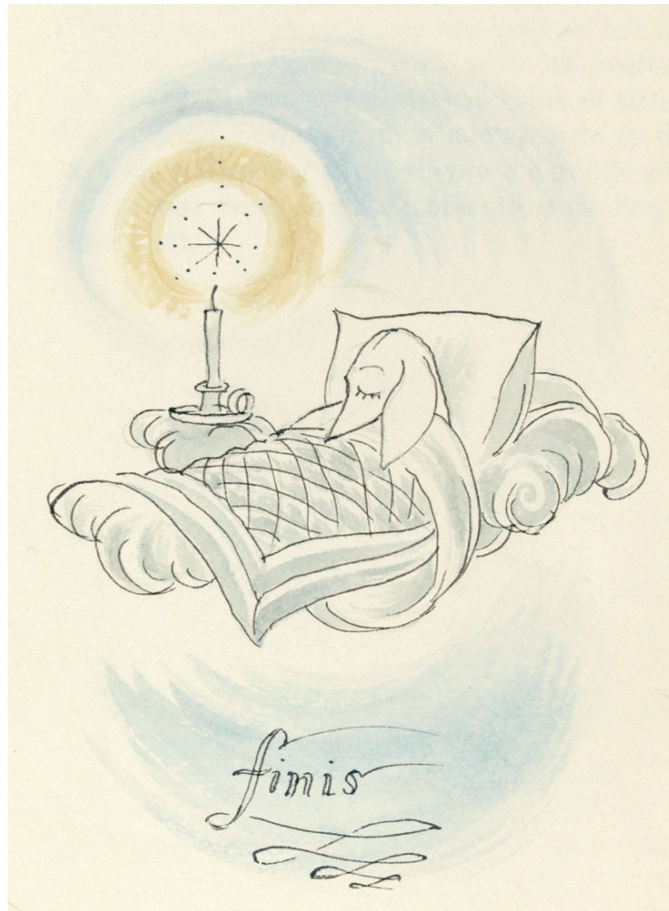
*Originally printed in an edition of thirty-five copies for the author and Geoffrey Keynes.*

## WITH 'AWAITMENT'

**19. (Stanbrook Abbey Press.) SASSOON (Siegfried) *The Path to Peace. Selected Poems*.** Worcester: The Stanbrook Abbey Press, 1960, FIRST EDITION, 128/480 COPIES (from an edition of 500 copies) printed on handmade paper in black and blue, title-page vignette blocked in gilt, manuscript initial letters, the first in gilt and red thereafter (all the work of Margaret Adams), pp. [x], 31, 4to, original quarter vellum, blue and gold marbled boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, tail edges untrimmed, tiny spot of wear at one corner, bookplate to front pastedown, acetate jacket with a small amount of loss at head, very good **£300**

*With the poem 'Awaitment', one of 624 copies, here the hand-drawn initial in green, on a loose sheet laid in at the back. This poem was written after the book had been printed and so supplied separately.*

**20. (Reading Room Press.) SILK (Dennis) *T.E. Lawrence and Siegfried Sassoon. A Friendship*.** Quenington: Reading Room Press, 2010, 104/120 COPIES, frontispiece wood engraving by Jim Westergard, printed on Zerkall mould-made paper, title-page printed in orange and black, pp. [19], crown 8vo, original quarter brown cloth with patterned paper sides lettered in brown to upper board, fine **£85**



*finis*