

YORK BOOK FAIR, 2025:

MODERN FIRST EDITIONS



Item 40

BLACKWELL'S RARE BOOKS, Stand 7

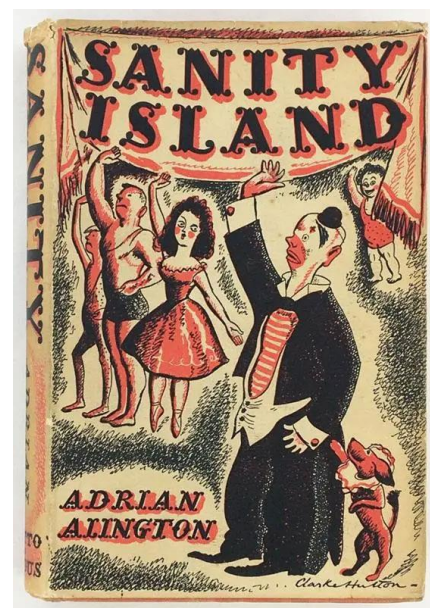
48-51 Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BQ, UK
Tel.: +44 (0)1865 333555 Fax: +44 (0)1865 794143
Email: rarebooks@blackwell.co.uk Twitter: [@blackwellrare](https://twitter.com/blackwellrare)
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1. Alington (Adrian) *Sanity Island*. A Novel. Chatto & Windus, 1941, FIRST EDITION, the odd faint spot to margin of opening leaves, pp. vii, 311, crown 8vo, original salmon-pink cloth, backstrip lettered in white and faded with lean to spine, some mottled fading to boards, corners slightly pushed, top edge red, other edges spotted, faint partial browning to free endpapers, pencilled ownership inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket designed by Clarke Hutton, backstrip panel browned, lightly nicked around head, a few tiny spots, very good **£275**

An uproarious wartime utopian satire, scarce - and with a wonderful dustjacket design by Clarke Hutton.

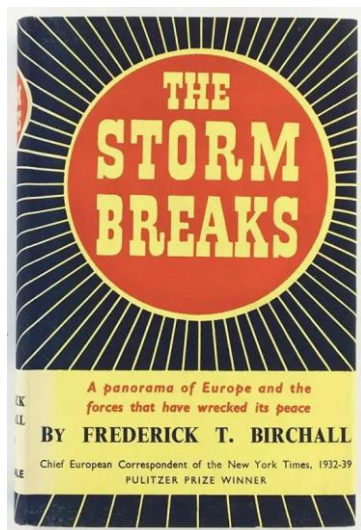
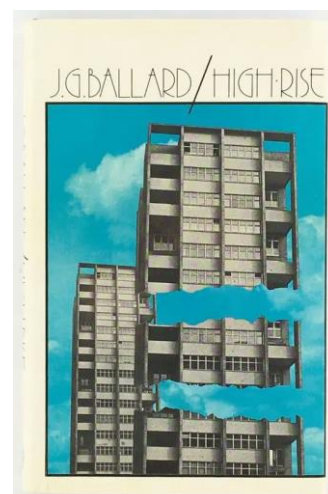
'Mervyn Hobhouse is a paunchy, bibulous, red-haired Englishman' (blurb), upon whom it falls to protect the Island of Meridia from the rival threats of Communists and 'the Strong Men' (i.e., Fascists). Humour is seen as the weapon to combat the Pomposity of the threatening will-to-power, in a mode analogous to Chaplin's 'The Great Dictator'.

The author was born in Oxford, and played cricket for the county; this latter interest was shared with his cousin, the author and schoolmaster Cyril Argentine Alington - both wrote well-regarded detective novels based on the sport (C.A. Alington's 'Mr Evans: A Cricketo-Detective Story' appeared in 1922, whilst Adrian Alington's 'The Amazing Test-Match Crime' followed in 1939).



2. Ballard (J.G.) *High Rise*. Jonathan Cape, 1975, FIRST EDITION, pp. 204, crown 8vo, original blue boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, top edge dark blue, dustjacket price-clipped by publisher with new price-sticker, near fine **£350**

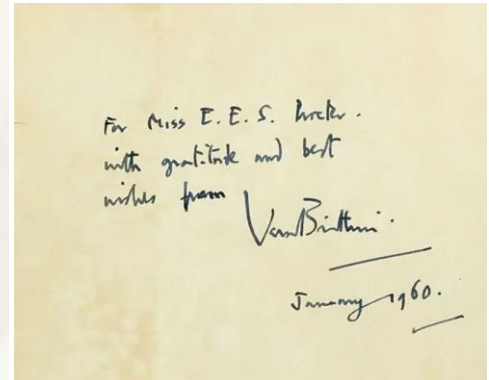
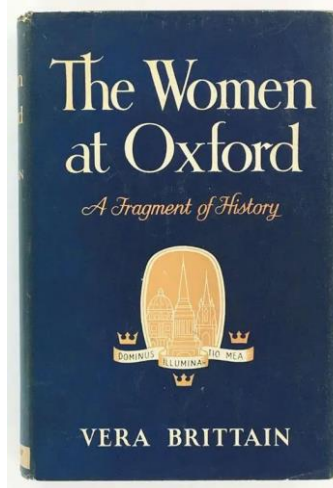
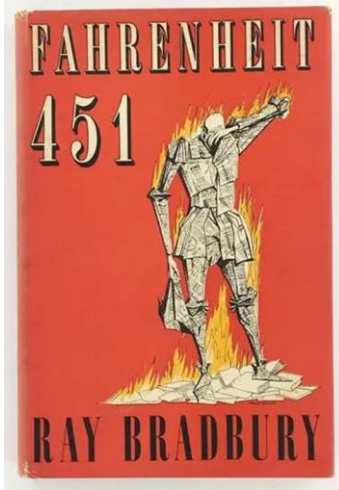
The author's microcosmic dystopia, set in a London towerblock.



3. Birchall (Frederick T.) *The Storm Breaks*. A Panorama of Europe and the Forces that Have Wrecked its Peace. Robert Hale, 1940, FIRST EDITION, small pencil squiggle at foot of final page, pp. 320, 8vo, original red cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, top edge a trifle dusty, dustjacket with a hint of fading to backstrip panel, near fine **£175**

The author, born in England, was a towering figure in American journalism, the Chief European Correspondent of the New York Times - whose reporting on the crisis in Europe, the basis of this work, had garnered him the Pulitzer Prize in 1934. It is, the blurb promises, a 'first-hand, vivid and authoritative account of the personalities, powers and events that contributed to the blazing catastrophe now sweeping Europe', broad in scope and strong on opinion.

4. **Bradbury (Ray)** *Fahrenheit 451*. Rupert Hart-Davis, 1954, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, frontispiece by Joe Mugnaini, light spotting to prelims, pp. 160, crown 8vo, original red boards, backstrip lettered in silver, edges and endpapers lightly spotted, slightly later amorous gift inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket with a design by Mugnaini, hint of fading to the backstrip panel, slightly rubbed and nicked at extremities, very good **£600**



INSCRIBED TO A WOMAN AT OXFORD

5. **Brittain (Vera)** *The Women at Oxford*. A Fragment of History. With eight plates in half-tone. George G. Harrap, 1960, FIRST EDITION, pp. 272, 8vo, original blue boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, knocked at head of joints, slight lean to spine, light spotting to top edge, faint partial browning to free endpapers, dustjacket faded around backstrip panel, slightly rubbed at extremities with a couple of tiny nicks to head, very good **£750**

Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'For Miss E.E.S. Procter, with gratitude and best wishes from Vera Brittain, January 1960'.

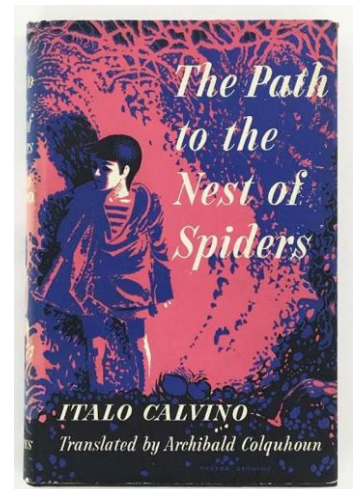
The recipient, Evelyn Emma Stefanos Procter, was a historian, at this time the Principal at St. Hugh's College - who, after Gilbert Murray, heads the author's list of Acknowledgements. She had earlier been a contemporary of Brittain's at Somerville College.

The book covers the eleven decades since liberal reforms of 1850 made the establishment of women's colleges at the University a possibility - both Brittain herself and Procter a testament to their success.

REVIEW COPY

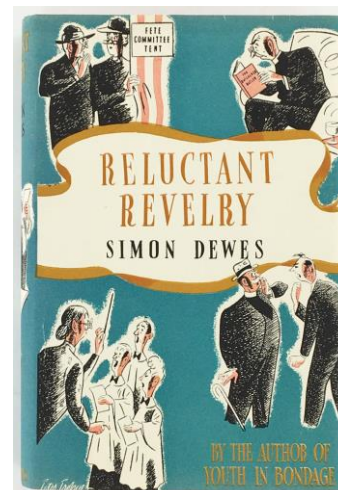
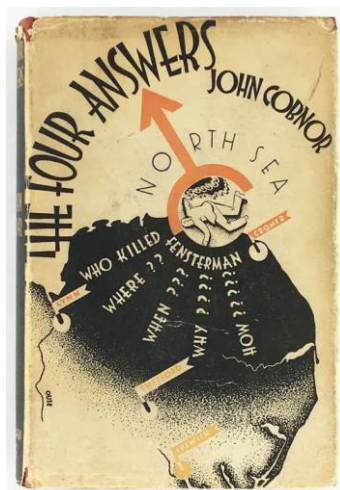
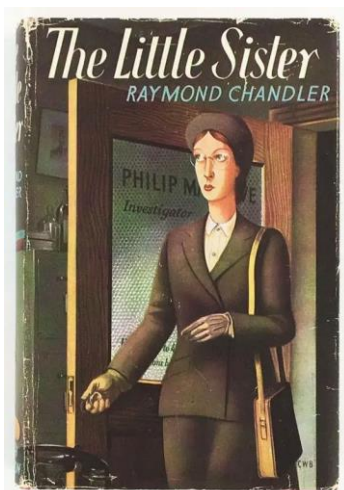
6. **Calvino (Italo)** *The Path to the Nest of Spiders*. Translated from the Italian by Archibald Colquhoun. Collins, 1956, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, pp. 192, crown 8vo, original black boards, backstrip gilt lettered, edges lightly spotted, a few faint spots to endpapers, dustjacket with a design by Trevor Denning, backstrip panel faded and a few little nicks at head of lightly spotted rear panel, **£350**

The author's first book, published in Italy in 1947. A review copy, with the publisher's printed slip loosely inserted, giving the publication date of 13th August 1956.



7. Chandler (Raymond) *The Little Sister*. Hamish Hamilton, 1949, FIRST EDITION, pp. 256, crown 8vo, original red cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, tiny faint mark at head of upper board, ownership inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket with a design by C.W. Bacon, slightly rubbed and nicked to extremities, very good **£400**

Chandler's fifth Philip Marlowe title, involving missing persons and blackmail, set in the film industry of late 1940s Los Angeles, a milieu Chandler knew well from his bitter experience as a Hollywood screenwriter.



8. Cobnor (John) *The Four Answers*. Jonathan Cape, 1931, FIRST EDITION, pp. 317, 8vo, original red cloth, backstrip gilt-lettered, gentle fading around tail edge, dustjacket with compass pictorial diagram with needle in orange pointing away from the body on Cromer beach, with radiating questions beneath, nicks to folds and corners, chipped at ends of backstrip panel, faint toning and dustsoiling overall, very good **£250**

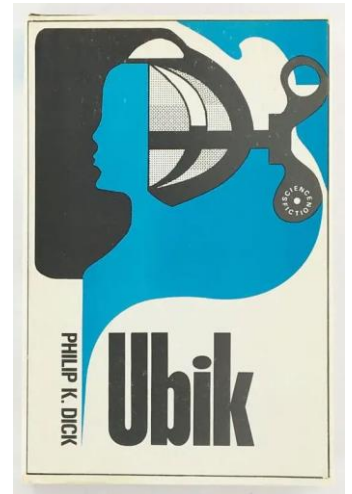
An intriguing work by the mysterious Cobnor, in which four fictional amateur detectives are set the task of discovering the murderer of the fifth participant in the experiment, the hypothetical victim of the crime. Charles Williams reviewed it, in perspicacious style, for The News Chronicle, 7 April, 1931: 'The Four Answers is concerned with four gentlemen playing a game of detection, and having it turn to a painful truth. It is all very good sleuthing, but the first part is pure art and therefore perfect; the second is applied art, and merely necessary. Besides, I hoped the Vicar was the murderer. Vicars so rarely murder since the Middle Ages, and yet when one thinks of the average congregation! Nothing much pointed to the Vicar, but (it is the only fault in the book) nothing at all pointed to the real criminal. And at least one dead finger always should.'

Announced by the publisher as their first foray into detective fiction.

9. Dewes (Simon, pseud. for John Muriel) *Reluctant Revelry*. Jarrolds, 1939, FIRST EDITION, half-title browned to border, pp. 287, 16 [ads], crown 8vo, original terracotta cloth, backstrip lettered in black, a few faint spots to edges, endpapers browned, dustjacket in superb condition, very good **£200**

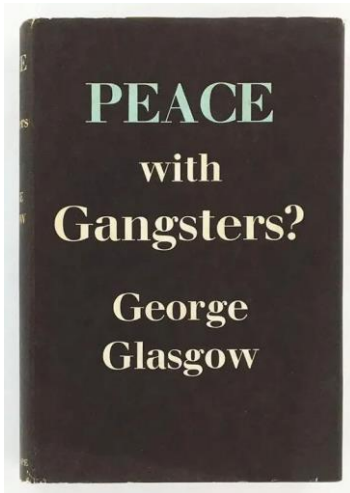
Scarce. A satire of English village life by the East Anglian author.

The printed dedication is to his fellow novelist, John Hampson; both were contributors to the 'Path and Pavement' anthology of short stories a couple of years earlier.



10. Dick (Philip K.) *Ubik*. Rapp & Whiting, 1970, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, one or two tiny spots at page-heads, pp. [vi], 202, crown 8vo, original dark grey boards, backstrip lettered in silver, gentle bump to bottom corner of upper board, spotting to top edge of textblock, dustjacket, very good **£400**

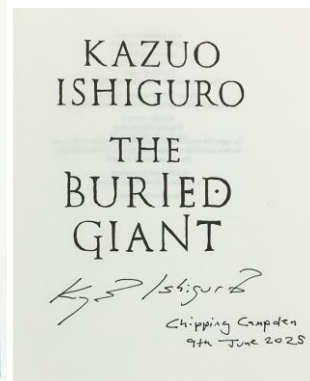
A bleak vision of the near-future, set in 1992, where Joe Chip, experiencing the fall-out of a bomb blast at a Moon base tries to get hold of the titular product – which is advertised at the head of each chapter, with a different function.



11. Glasgow (George) *Peace with Gangsters?* Jonathan Cape, 1939, FIRST EDITION, faint spots to fore-margin of prelims, pp. 288, crown 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, top edge blue, others very faintly spotted with tail edge roughtrimmed, dustjacket, slightly rubbed at tips of backstrip panel, the rear panel faintly soiled with a small pink mark, very good **£350**

A book with a forthright condemnation of the Nazi regime ('Hitler is a liar [...] stirred to the depths of his shallow soul by dreams of terrorist conquest') but with the thesis that appeasement is the better option - its printed dedication ('without permission') is to 'Neville Chamberlain, Cunctator'.

An excellent copy of a book that is uncommon in the dustjacket.

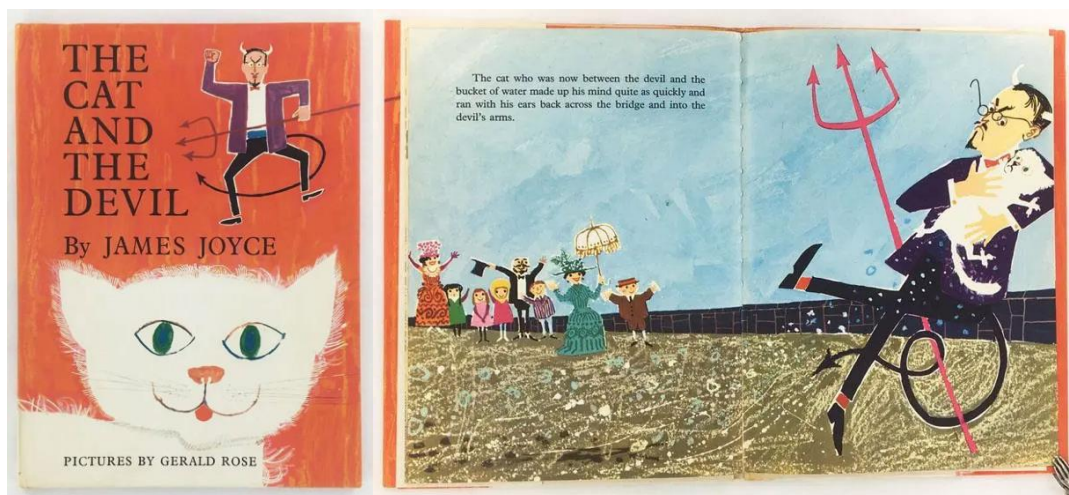
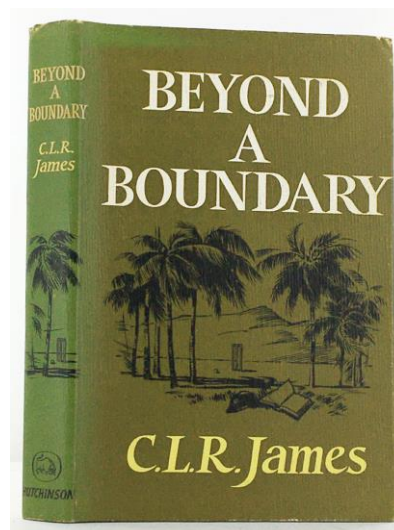


12. Ishiguro (Kazuo) *The Buried Giant*. Faber and Faber, 2015, FIRST EDITION, special 'Collectors' Edition' for Faber Members, pp. [vi], 345, 8vo, original quarter ochre cloth, blue boards illustrated with a tree design, gilt leaves, backstrip lettered in gilt, leaf-pattern endpapers, ochre page-marker, near fine **£150**

Signed by the author to the title-page, adding the place and date ('Chipping Campden, 2025'); this special 'Collectors' Edition' of the first edition was produced exclusively for Faber Members and was not issued signed - the publisher's letter presenting this version of the book is laid in.

13. James (C. L. R.) *Beyond a Boundary*. Hutchinson, 1963, FIRST EDITION, pp. 256, 8vo, original black boards, backstrip lettered in gilt with a decoration in white, slight dink at head of backstrip, upper board corners a touch knocked, dustjacket designed by Peter Chadwick, slight fading to backstrip and borders of front panel, a little rubbed at extremities, very good **£700**

A classic in its field, nominated by John Arlott (whose biography of Maurice Tate is cited in the text) in Wisden as 'the finest book written about the game of cricket'. The blurb calls it a 'great nuggety goldmine of a book'; James's work is rich in allusion to art and literature, using cricket and cricketers (with an emphasis on the heroes of his West Indies, but with a section devoted to W.G. Grace and numerous references to legends of the sport from around the world), as a prism through which to provide a memoir of maturation - both his own and that of his native Trinidad, each in cultural exchange with English life and history. As encapsulated in his short Preface, 'To establish his own identity, Caliban, after three centuries, must pioneer into regions Caesar never knew'.



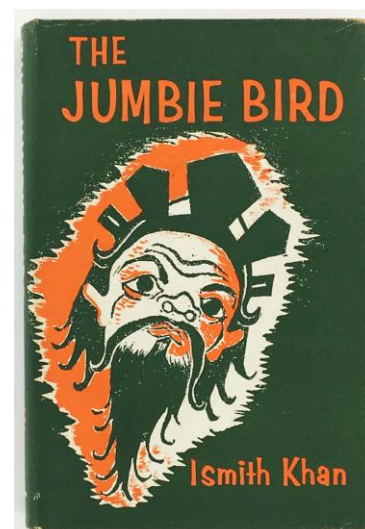
14. Joyce (James) *The Cat and the Devil*. Illustrated by Gerald Rose. Faber and Faber, 1965, FIRST EDITION, colour and black & white illustrations by Gerald Rose, pp.[32], royal 8vo, original pictorial boards with an overall design by Rose, backstrip slightly knocked at head, spine leaning a little, dustjacket repeating board-design, backstrip panel a shade faded, very good **£300**

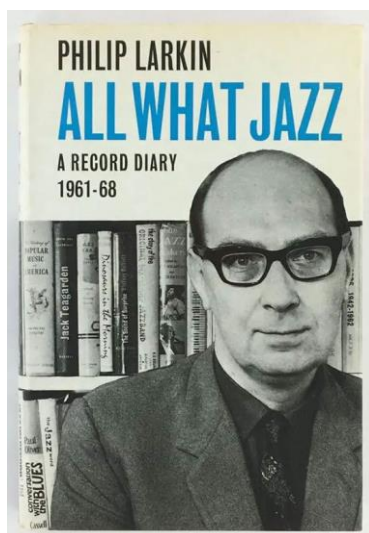
The author's charming comic fable, originally written in the form of a letter to his grandson, Stephen.

15. Khan (Ismith) *The Jumbie Bird*. MacGibbon & Kee, 1961, FIRST EDITION, pp. 224, crown 8vo, original dark green cloth-effect boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, faint browning to inner margin of free endpapers, dustjacket with a design by Eleanor Meadowcroft to front panel, very slightly rubbed at extremities, small mark towards foot of rear panel, very good **£125**

The Trinidadian author's debut novel.

Drawing on his own background and experience, it is the tale of three generations of a family of Indian heritage, who had migrated to Trinidad to work on the sugar plantations following the abolition of slavery.

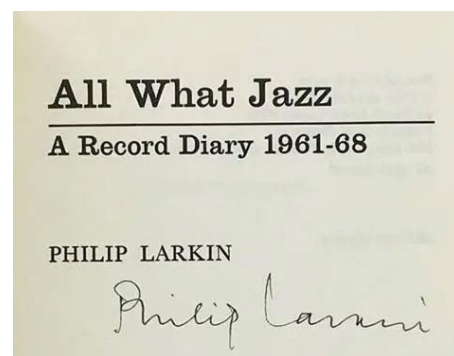




16. Larkin (Philip) All What Jazz. A Record Diary 1961-69. Faber and Faber, 1970, FIRST EDITION, pp. [xii], 272, 8vo, original brown cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt and slightly sunned through the jacket, touch of rubbing at extremities, very gentle knock at head of upper joint and a few small spots to top edge, ownership stamp of Megan & Michael Dawson to flyleaf (see below), dustjacket, very good **£2,000**

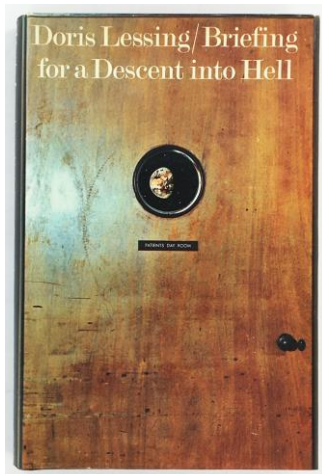
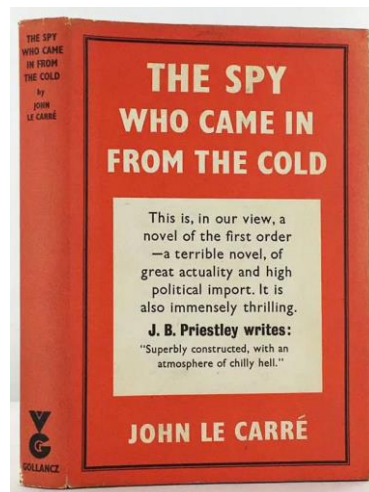
Signed by the author on the title-page.

Larkin's collected reviews of his preferred musical form; this copy from the library of Michael Dawson and his wife Megan, with their attractive 'chop' to the flyleaf - Dawson founded the Ilkley Literature Festival in 1973, with Larkin among the headline acts of the event's early years.



17. Le Carré (John) The Spy Who Came in From the Cold. Victor Gollancz, 1963, FIRST EDITION, a faint handling mark to fore-margin of opening page, pp. 222, crown 8vo, original blue boards, backstrip lettered in gilt and slightly faded at tips, spine leaning slightly, textblock edges a little toned, ownership inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket in nice shape, a couple of very faint spots and light dustsoiling to the blank rear panel, a couple of tiny nicks, that at head of front flap-fold with a spot of internal tape repair, very good **£1,250**

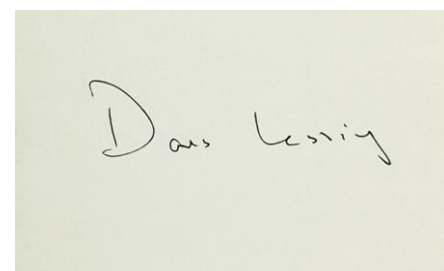
An excellent copy of the book that established his reputation.; this copy with the red of the dustjacket still bright.



18. Lessing (Doris) Briefing for a Descent into Hell. Jonathan Cape, 1971, FIRST EDITION, pp. 251, crown 8vo, original dark brown boards, backstrip lettered in gilt with slight lean to spine, top edge brown, dustjacket, very good **£325**

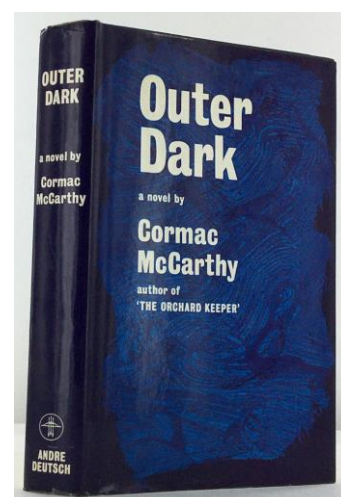
Signed by the author on the flyleaf.

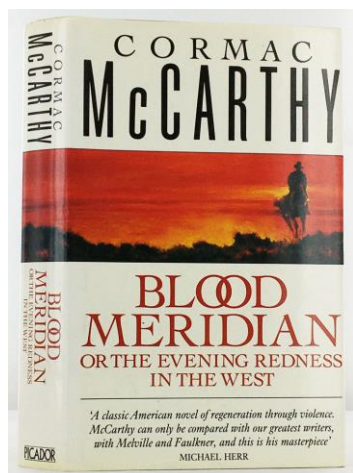
A novel of 'inner space fiction', being a psychiatric study of Charles Watkins, a Classics professor at Cambridge University.



19. McCarthy (Cormac) Outer Dark. Andre Deutsch, 1970, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, upper edge of text block faintly spotted, pp. 238, crown 8vo, original very dark blue boards, backstrip lettered in silver, dustjacket, designed by Michael Heawood, with very minor creasing at backstrip ends, very good **£950**

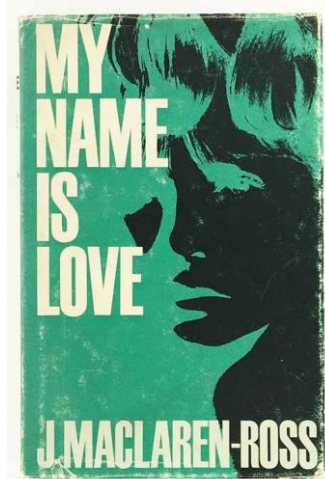
His second novel; the UK edition is less common than its American predecessor, and this is an excellent copy.





20. McCarthy (Cormac) *Blood Meridian or, The Evening Redness in the West*. Picador, 1989, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, the paperstock toned to borders throughout, as usual, lower edge of text block crossed by a few pencil lines, pp. [viii], 337, 8vo, original red boards, backstrip lettered in white and slightly pushed at head and foot, spine a little cocked, dustjacket with touch of creasing at backstrip ends, very good **£550**

The author's fifth novel, a lauded work - Michael Herr's praise, quoted on the front panel, calls it 'his masterpiece', comparing it with Melville and Faulkner.



21. Maclaren-Ross (Julian) *My Name is Love*. A romance. Douglas, Isle of Man: Times Press, [1964,] FIRST EDITION, pp. 189, [1], crown 8vo, original sage-green boards, backstrip lettered in metallic blue, small spot to top edge of textblock, dustjacket a little rubbed, very good **£350**

The author's last and least common novel, published in the year he died - a late exploration of his enduring fixation with Sonia Orwell.



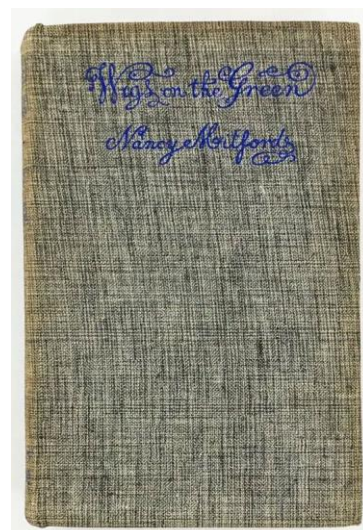
22. Meller (Leslie) *Quartette*. Faber and Faber, 1932, FIRST EDITION, a couple of tiny spots to prelims recurrent at rear, a little creasing to top corner of last few leaves, pp. 284, crown 8vo, original yellow cloth, backstrip lettered in blue and very slightly faded, tiny dink to top edge, top edge blue with edges and endpapers lightly spotted, attractive pictorial dustjacket with backstrip panel browned and some light chipping, very good **£200**

The first of two novels by a South Australian author with Yorkshire heritage; its successor, 'A Leaf of Laurel', was also published by Faber.

It carries a printed dedication to his friend, artist Norman Lindsay (the most substantial part of his papers held at the State Library of South Australia is their correspondence). The blurb to the front flap describes the author as 'delightfully pagan [...] with a perception that is clairvoyant'.

23. Mitford (Nancy) *Wigs on the Green*. Thornton Butterworth, 1935, FIRST EDITION, a couple of faint handling marks to margins, small spot at foot of prelims, pp. 253, [2, ads], crown 8vo, original textured grey cloth, the rules and publisher device to both boards blind-stamped, backstrip and upper board lettered in blue, lean to spine, backstrip and borders sunned, corners a little pushed, textblock edges and free endpapers toned, flyleaf with ownership inscription: 'Pilkington', good **£950**

Mitford's roman à clef lampooning the far-right caused a 'considerable amount of bad feeling within her own family' (ODNB) - its principal target being the British Union of Fascists, whose leader, Oswald Mosley, was then in a relationship (and would soon after marry) the author's sister Diana. Another sister, Unity, was then aligning herself with the Nazi party in Germany - and appears in the novel as Eugenia Malmains.

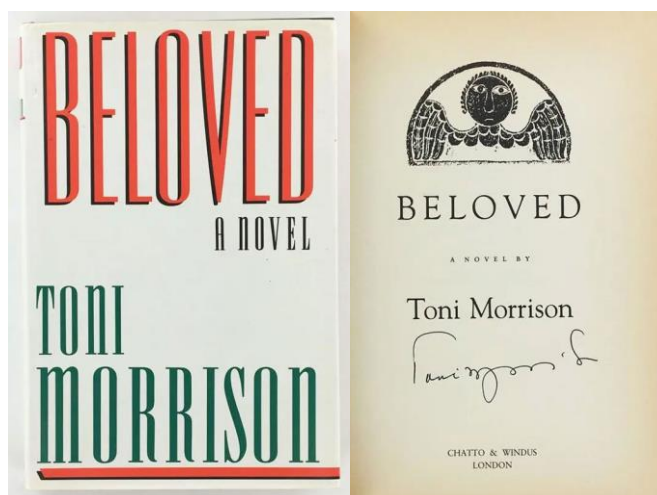
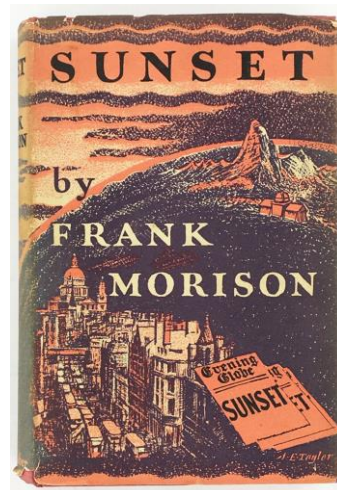


24. Morison (Frank [i.e. Albert Henry Ross]) *Sunset*. Faber and Faber, 1932, FIRST EDITION, drawings to the text, faint spot carrying through at foot of prelims, some light handling marks, pp. 286, crown 8vo, original pink cloth, backstrip lettered in green with a touch of fading at tips, a few light handling marks to upper board, top edge pink, edges and endpapers lightly spotted, dustjacket with a design by A.E. Taylor, a little chipped and nicked, backstrip panel sunned, very good **£175**

'Frank Morison' was the nom-de-plume of Albert Ross, who was presumably sick of people asking to see his wingspan. Faber had published his previous book, 'Who Moved the Stone?', an exegetical work expressing his scepticism regarding the facts of Jesus's resurrection - which T.S. Eliot in his reader's report had, despite initial reservations, commended as 'well written' and 'as absorbing as a detective story'. Dorothy L. Sayers cited it as an influence on her 'The Man Born to be King'.

This is his first novel, a work of science fiction, similarly provocative, in which physicist John Byford establishes radio communication with a dying planet three light years from Earth, from which he receives the prediction of his own planet's imminent destruction.

Ross, who worked as an advertising agent, was raised in Birmingham and educated at King Edward VI school in Stratford-upon-Avon, whose other old boys include William Shakespeare ('Richard II' providing one of the book's epigraphs) and this cataloguer.



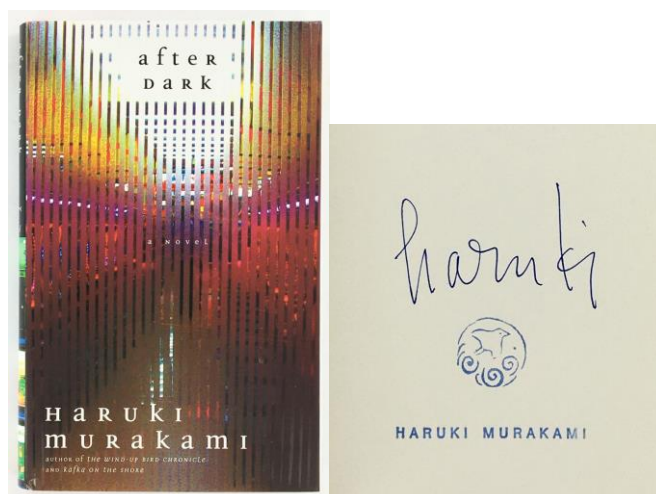
25. Morrison (Toni) *Beloved. A Novel*. Chatto & Windus, 1987, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, woodcut title-page vignette page-borders a little browned throughout, pp. [viii], 275, 8vo, original green boards, backstrip lettering and vignette to upper board (repeating that to title) stamped in gilt, dustjacket price-clipped, very good **£500**

Signed by the author on the title-page; her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

26. Murakami (Haruki) *Pinball, 1973*. Translated from the Japanese by Alfred Birnbaum. Tokyo: Kodansha, 1986, FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH, pages very gently toned to borders, pp. [iv], 215, 16mo, original wrappers, dustjacket and original wraparound band, near fine **£450**

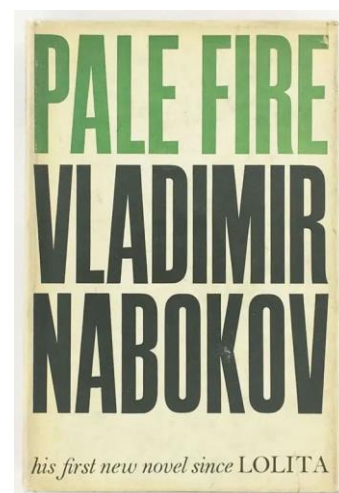
The author's second work, but the first to be translated into English; a superb copy.





27. Murakami (Haruki) *After Dark*. Translated from the Japanese by Jay Rubin. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2007, FIRST AMERICAN EDITION, pp. [v], 191, 8vo, original quarter pink boards, contrasting purple sides, backstrip lettered in gilt, fore-edge roughtrimmed, dustjacket, fine **£450**
Signed by the author on the first initial blank, above his pictorial stamp.

28. Nabokov (Vladimir) *Pale Fire*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1962, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, pp. 315, crown 8vo, original black boards, backstrip lettered in silver, top corners gently bumped, spotting to edges and endpapers, the flyleaf with ownership inscription of 'Oliver Bernard' (see below), rear free endpaper with bottom corner not properly trimmed and folded, dustjacket lightly soiled overall with a little nicking and chipping, the backstrip panel faintly sunned, very good **£250**
A copy of Nabokov's novel, his first since 'Lolita', a 'sort of do-it-yourself detective story' (blurb), with notable provenance - the ownership inscription is that of poet and translator Oliver Bernard.

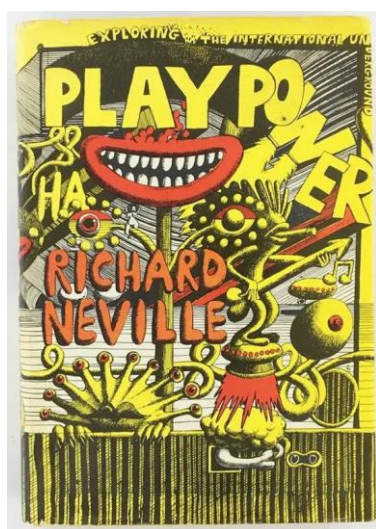


WITH THE 'HEADOPOLY' GAME INTACT

29. Neville (Richard) *Play Power*. Jonathan Cape, 1970, FIRST EDITION, pp. 360, crown 8vo, original yellow boards, backstrip lettered in black, top edge black, pocket to rear pastedown containing the 'Headopoly' game (this sometimes lacking, see below), dustjacket by Martin Sharp, merest hint of fading to backstrip panel, slightly nicked and rubbed at extremities, very good **£250**

A statement of the 'International Underground' from one of the founders of OZ magazine - 'important for those who consider themselves part of the Movement, essential for those outside it'.

The Headopoly game - a spoof of Monopoly in the form of an 'Underground Almanac Poster-Game' - was not present in copies entering Australia, where the game had attracted the attention of the authorities; in these copies, the pocket was sealed with a sticker explaining that a Prohibition Notice had been imposed upon it. The game itself, designed by Jon Goodchild, is not only attractive but a thorough and scholarly record of sixties counter-culture.

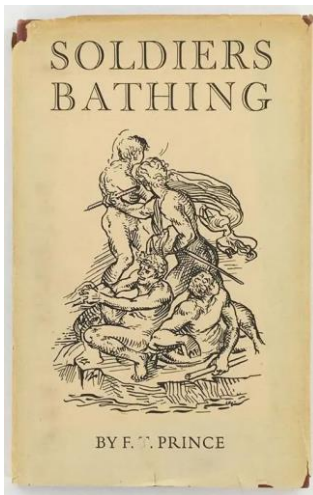
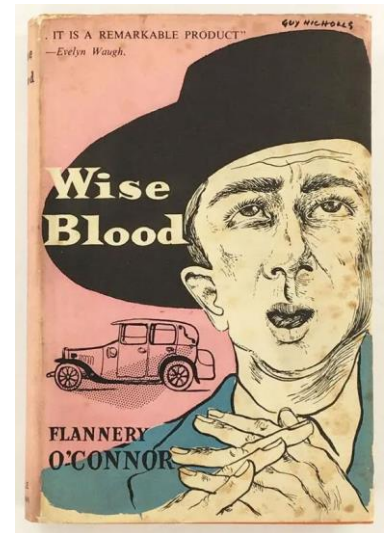


30. O'Connor (Flannery) *Wise Blood*. Neville Spearman, 1955, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, a couple of spots at head of prelims, recurrent at rear, half-title and final page of text browned, pp. 232, crown 8vo, original orange boards, backstrip lettered in black and a little faded, boards lightly handled, knock at head of lower board, light spotting to top edge, free endpapers faintly browned, slightly later ownership inscription at head of flyleaf, dustjacket with a design by Guy Nicholls, a few little nicks, light overall dustsoiling with a smattering of spots, very good **£300**

Published in the same year as its American predecessor, and with a distinct design - the UK edition is less common.

The dustjacket carries the praise of Evelyn Waugh, who considered O'Connor's debut to be a 'remarkable product'; the blurb further compares her work, in its blending of contemporary satire with religious themes, to that of Waugh ('The Loved One' in particular).

O'Connor's novel is considered a key work in the Southern Gothic style; her tale of Hazel Motes, wounded in the War and evangelical for an anti-religion of his conception, was later filmed by John Huston.



CORRECTED PRESENTATION COPY

31. Prince (F.T.) *Soldiers Bathing, and Other Poems*. The Fortune Press, 1954, FIRST EDITION, small holograph correction to p. 30, pp. 44, crown 8vo, original red cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt with minor rubbing at tips, dustjacket chipped at corners with the backstrip panel faintly sunned, typographical errors to front flap corrected in author's holograph, good **£175**
Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'To Peter Russell from F.T. Prince. March, 1955'. The recipient was a poet associated with Ezra Pound in his latter years.

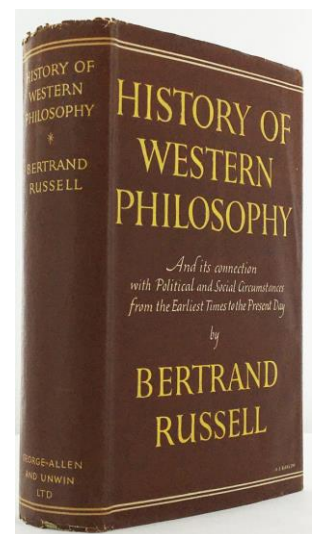
The title-poem is Prince's best-known, anthologised regularly in poems of the Second World War; despite its subsequent celebration, the collection was rejected by Eliot at Faber, who had published Prince's debut. The poet may have regarded his new home as inauspicious, given the number of errors he has corrected on the front flap, but - aside from a small typo in 'Apollo and the Sibyl' - the clumsiness is kept away from the text.

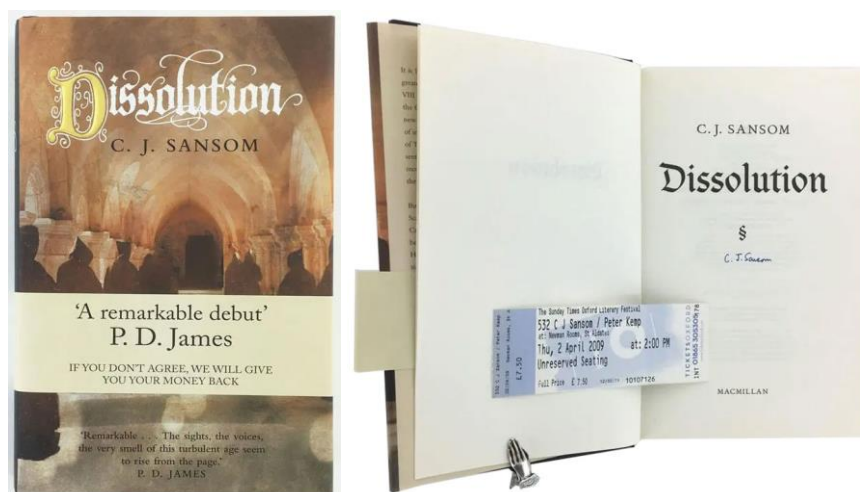
WITH A WAR OFFICE MAP ON THE DUSTJACKET

32. Russell (Bertrand) *The History of Western Philosophy*, and its connection with Political and Social Circumstances from the Earliest Times to the Present Day. George Allen and Unwin, 1946, FIRST EDITION, pp. 916, 8vo, original grey cloth, the backstrip lettered in yellow against a brown ground, edges lightly spotted, the free endpapers more faintly so, dustjacket a little nicked with some very faint browning to rear panel, faint mark to backstrip panel, very good **£600**

The dust jacket has, as usual, a section of a War Office map on its verso - here stretching from Montélimar to Marseille.

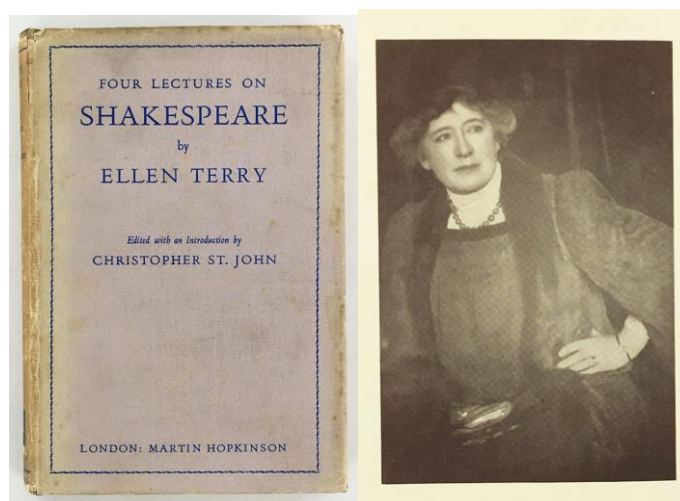
Russell's history is aimed at the general reader rather than the academic; A.C. Grayling commended it as '[h]ighly readable, very amusing, full of instruction, even when it needs the correctives of closer scholarship, it is one of the monuments of twentieth-century philosophy and literature', even allowing for its occasional inaccuracy and bias (on which point, Russell in his 'Autobiography' reflected, 'a man without bias cannot write interesting history - if, indeed, such a man exists').





33. Sansom (C.J.) *Dissolution* Macmillan, 2003, FIRST EDITION, pp. vii, 390, 8vo, original black boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, small light-pressure-mark at foot of upper board, colour-printed endpaper maps, dustjacket with wraparound band (carrying the praise of P.D. James), near fine **£600** *Signed by the author on the title-page; a ticket for the event at which the book was signed, the Oxford Literary Festival 2009, is laid in.*

The author's lauded debut, introducing his Tudor detective, Matthew Shardlake.



34. (Shakespeare.) TERRY (Ellen) *Four Lectures on Shakespeare*. Edited with an Introduction by Christopher St. John. Martin Hopkinson, 1932, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece photographic portrait, faint spotting to facing title-page, pp. 201, crown 8vo, original lavender cloth with a marbled pattern in maroon and blue, backstrip (slightly faded) lettered in gilt on a label of maroon morocco, a few small spots to edges, top edge slightly dusty, dustjacket a little chipped and nicked with some short splits at ends of folds, some faint spotting to borders, backstrip panel darkened, very good **£300**

A scarce book, this copy with a contemporary gift inscription (indeed, in the month of publication) to the flyleaf: 'Marie, from Billy, April 1932'.

The four lectures, delivered between 1911 and 1921, consist of 'The Children in Shakespeare's Plays', 'The Triumphant Women', 'The Pathetic Women', and 'The Letters in Shakespeare's Plays' - only the last of them previously published.

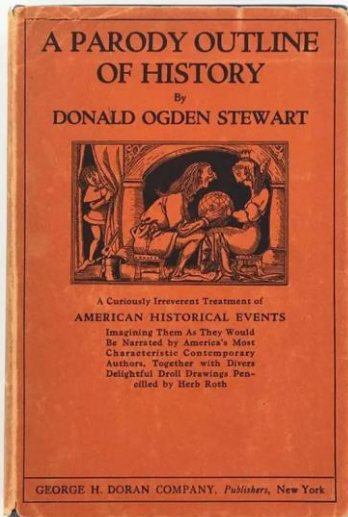
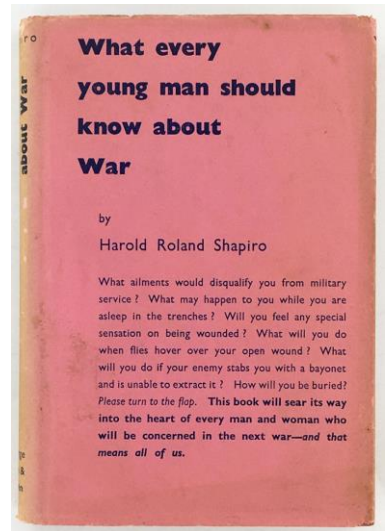
The Introduction here is provided by the partner of Edith Craig (Ellen Terry's daughter); née Christabel Marshall (St. John became her legal name following conversion to Catholicism in 1912), she was a suffragist, and arrested in 1909 after setting a pillar-box on fire in protest. Earlier in her career, following education at Somerville College, Oxford, she had been temporary secretary to Lady Randolph Churchill and Winston Churchill.

35. Shapiro (Harold Roland) *What Every Young Man Should Know About War*. George Allen & Unwin, 1938, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, pp. 135, crown 8vo, original pink cloth, lettered in dark blue to upper board and backstrip, spine slightly cocked, textblock edges toned with some very faint spotting to endpapers, dustjacket with sunned backstrip panel, slightly nicked and chipped, some light handling and a couple of small spots, very good **£750**

A scarce instructional book on the eve of war, written by a New York lawyer whose experience of World War One had taught him of the disparity between the actual experience of conflict and the way it has been presented.

The blurb assures readers that the book 'is no pacifist manifesto. Nor is it a treatise on war' - but its veracity limited its success, and the author consented to withdraw it from circulation so that it didn't discourage people from enlisting.

Written in question-and-answer format, its sections include 'Mental Reactions' ('What may happen to me after I bayonet my enemy in the face?'), 'Poison Gas' ('How long would it take for mustard vapour to irritate my scrotum?'), 'Sex in Wartime' ('Is there any other way against damaging my genitals against which I should be warned?'), and 'When I Die' ('What if my body should be found in a state of cataleptic rigor?').



36. Stewart (Donald Ogden) *A Parody Outline of History*. Wherein May be Found a Curiously Irreverent Treatment of American Historical Events, Imagining Them As They Would Be Narrated by America's Contemporary Authors, Together with Divers Delightful Droll Drawings Pencilled by Herb Roth. New York: George H. Doran, 1921, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece and 20 further illustrations, pp. 230, crown 8vo, original blue cloth, printed labels to upper board and backstrip, hint of rubbing at extremities, textblock edges toned with a few spots to top edge, gift inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket repeating Roth illustration to front panel. slightly darkened backstrip panel and a little creasing to extremities, very good **£150**

A parody of Wells's 'Outline of History', skilfully done 'in the manner of' what are classified in the Preface as 'our most characteristic literary figures': so we have Edith Wharton narrating Custer's Last Stand, F. Scott Fitzgerald taking on Miles Standish, James Branch Cabell re-telling the continent's discovery, Eugene O'Neill on the First World War, and others in a similar vein - including Ring Lardner and Sinclair Lewis.

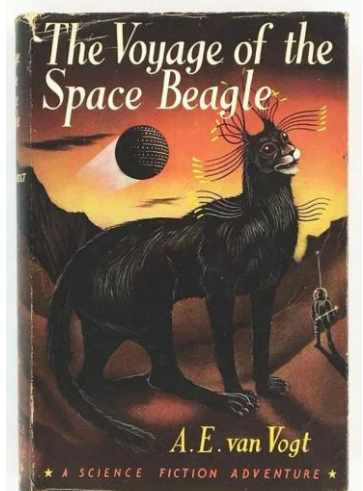
The author was awarded an Oscar for his screenplay for The Philadelphia Story and featured, in the guise of Bill Gorton, in Hemingway's 'The Sun Also Rises'.

INSCRIBED

37. van Vogt (A.E.) *The Voyage of the Space Beagle*. Grayson & Grayson, 1951, FIRST ENGLISH EDITION, pp. 256, crown 8vo, original red cloth, backstrip lettered in black, edges lightly spotted, dustjacket lightly rubbed and nicked, very good **£200**

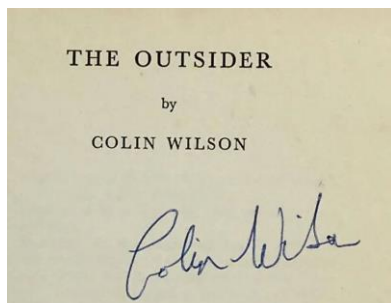
Inscribed by the author on the title-page: 'For Bob, Sincerely, A.E. and Lynda Van Vogt'.

A 'fix-up' novel, regarded as a source-text for the film 'Alien' by some - principally the author, who initiated a lawsuit.



SIGNED, EPOCHAL DEBUT

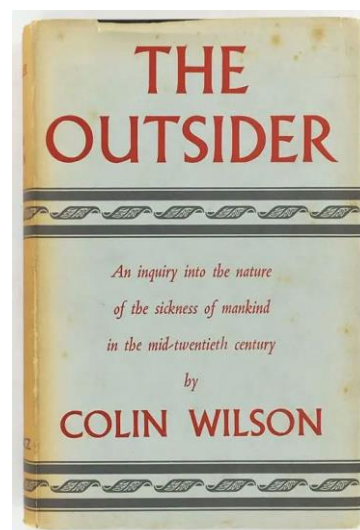
38. Wilson (Colin) *The Outsider*. Victor Gollancz, 1956, FIRST EDITION, half-title and final text-page faintly spotted, with the odd spot to margins within, pp. 288, crown 8vo, original blue boards, backstrip lettered in gilt and faded, boards a little marked, textblock edges toned and faintly spotted, handling mark to fore-margin of flyleaf, dustjacket with browned backstrip panel, a little nicked and spotted, good **£400**



Signed by the author on the title-page; Wilson has, to the verso of the facing half-title, written his address in Cornwall.

The cover provides the subtitle: 'An inquiry into the nature of the sickness of mankind in the mid-twentieth century'.

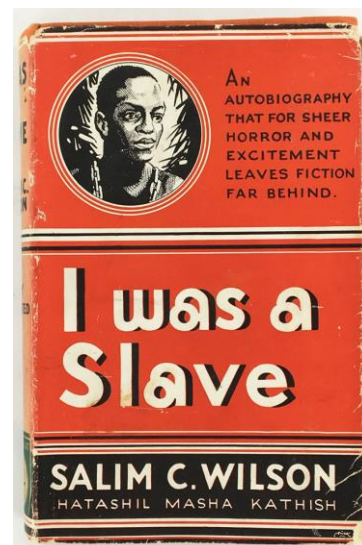
The author's first book, a key work of British Existentialism.



39. Wilson (Salim C. [Hatashil Masha Kathish]) *I Was a Slave*. With twelve half-tone illustrations. Stanley Paul, n.d. [circa 1939,] FIRST EDITION, frontispiece and 6 plates, some faint foxing to prelims, catalogue at rear, and to margins adjacent to plates, pp. 256, 16 [Publisher's catalogue], 8vo, original orange cloth, backstrip lettered in black, very slight lean to spine, textblock edges toned, dustjacket with repricing sticker at foot of faded backstrip panel, rubbed to extremities and slightly nicked and chipped, some creasing to rear panel due to very short closed tear at head of lower joint-fold, very good **£1,350**

Scarce; the dustjacket's front panel announces it as 'an autobiography that for sheer horror and excitement leaves fiction far behind'.

The author had an illustrious heritage, his father was a chieftain of the Dinka tribe in what is now South Sudan; his happy childhood was brought to a brutal end in a raid by Arab traders, who, following extensive slaughter in armed combat, enslaved the conquered population. He was, after a period of intense hardship in bondage, freed by Lt.-Col. Romolo Gessi, serving under General Gordon, joining his troops (without any home to return to); he travelled with missionaries and underwent conversion - now based in England, and settling in Yorkshire, where he married a local woman and enjoyed some celebrity (the frontispiece here captions him as 'the only freed slave in England'), which furthered his missionary work and his campaign against slavery.



INSCRIBED AND WITH A LETTER TO JOHN SPARROW

40. Woodforde (Christopher) *A Pad in the Straw*. With drawings by Yunge-Bateman. [Prefatory Note by Lord David Cecil.] J.M. Dent, 1952, FIRST EDITION, headpieces by Yunge-Bateman, minor pencil annotations to pp. 75, 127-8, these in the hand of John Sparrow (see below), pp. xi, 235, crown 8vo, original green cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt with slight fading at tips, a few spots to edges and endpapers, dustjacket by Yunge-Bateman, slightly nicked at extremities with a few faint spots to rear panel, very good **£425**

Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'John Sparrow, from the author, July 1952'. Woodforde was the Chaplain of New College, Oxford - this collection of 'eerie stories' is aimed at the young, and, as Lord Cecil's note describes, originally told to boys before existing in written form. A friendly 2pp. ALs to the recipient, Warden at All Souls College and a renowned bibliophile, is laid in, wherein Woodforde thanks 'My dear Sparrow' for his 'invaluable' notes on the work, and offers praise and gratitude for his reader's attention to detail regarding various points - thereby decrying his own 'bad workmanship'. Sparrow's expertise is further evident in this copy, where a couple of annotations make suggestions for improving word-use or sentence-structure.

