

AGAINST EDUCATION.

1. **Black (E.L.)** *Why do They Like It*. With a foreword by Dorothy M. Richardson [Educational Documents 1.] [Territet: (printed in Dijon by Maurice Darantiere) for POOL,] [1927,] FIRST EDITION, some foxing, pp. xii, 199, foolscap 8vo, original cream wrappers printed in black, edges untrimmed and uncut, a little foxed also, very good **£1,000**

An attack on the English public school system, written pseudonymously by Sir John Reeves Ellerman - the scion of a wealthy shipping family, and 'during his lifetime [...] generally regarded as Britain's richest man' (ODNB). This book, written at the age of 15, records his unhappy experiences at Malvern College and was published with the assistance of his sister Winifred Ellerman (i.e., Bryher), who likely also helped to procure Dorothy Richardson's contribution. The rear cover advertises that it 'can be obtained from Shakespeare & Co' in Paris and it was presumably hard to find anywhere else - although the precise number of copies is uncertain (the publishing details on the book itself are scant).

NIGEL DENNIS'S FIRST NOVEL

2. **(Dennis.) VAUGHAN (Richard, pseud. for Nigel Dennis)** *Chalk and Cheese*. A Co-Educational School Novel. John Miles, 1934, FIRST EDITION, a few spots to head of half-title and title-page, recurrent occasionally, a mark to fore-margin carrying through a few leaves at close, pp. 311, crown 8vo, original black cloth with illustration stamped in white to upper board, the lettering to upper board and backstrip in same, some light wear to tail and a chip at head of backstrip affecting a few letters of title, top edge red, a few spots to fore-edge, the dustjacket blurb tipped to front pastedown, successive ownership inscriptions of Alice B. Davis and James Stern (see below) to flyleaf, clippings concerning later work by the author laid in, good **£600**

The author's first novel, and altogether scarce - outside the domestic legal deposit libraries, there is a copy at the London Library and NYPL.

Published at the age of 22, it is based on his own transition from schools in Southern Rhodesia to Austria; its juvenile origins probably explain in large part the swiftness of its disavowal by Dennis, and perhaps some hesitation at the portrayal of its Jewish antagonist in light of the developing European situation, though it is an assured enough debut - the depiction of cultural differences enacted partly through a romance 'with a girl who upholds [...] most modern opinions' (dustjacket blurb).

Latterly in the collection of author James Stern, who has noted the author's identity in pencil to the title-page.

‘WITH CORRECTIONS & REVISIONS IN THE AUTHOR’S HAND’

3. Fuller (Roy) *That Distant Afternoon* [*The Ruined Boys*]. New York: Macmillan, 1959, FIRST AMERICAN EDITION, occasional corrections to the text in red ink by the author (see below), mostly typographical or improving punctuation and word-use, a few minor deletions, pp. 248, crown 8vo, original black cloth, backstrip lettered in gilt, extremities a little rubbed, a few very faint spots to edges, dustjacket with a design by The Strimbans, a little nicked and chipped, very good **£100**

Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: ‘For Ronnie, who joined the Wolfit company too late to be seen by the boys of Seafolde House. With corrections & revisions in the author’s hand. Affly, Roy, 29.x.76’. Also signed by Fuller on the title-page.

The recipient, his small library label at the foot of the same, was author and playwright Sir Ronald Harwood; a notecard from Fuller to the same is laid in, presenting this ‘Yankee edition’ principally for its ‘theatrical references’ – and especially that to Sibelius’s ‘Finlandia’ – in return for Harwood’s work on Donald Wolfit (as mentioned in the inscription).

Fuller’s novel is set in a fictional public school, based on his own education.

4. Hewitt (Harald) *From Harrow School to Herrison House Asylum*. C.W. Daniel, 1923, FIRST EDITION, pp. 89, crown 8vo, original quarter blue cloth with beige boards, backstrip lettered in gilt, the upper board lettered in blue, backstrip slightly sunned, corners gently knocked and worn, light handling, edges untrimmed, free endpapers browned, good **£175**

The author’s apologia, identifying a causal rather than an incidental relation between the institutions yoked by its title, and ascribing his later ‘mad deed’ at Ascot - where in 1913 he ran in front of the leading horse brandishing a revolver and a Suffragette flag - to his ‘five miserable years’ at Harrow School. The critical act had ‘disastrous results’ - Hewitt was ‘seriously injured by a kick in the head [...] doctors certified me insane, and I was sent to an asylum’. All of this is recounted in detail in this compelling account - in part a tract against those ‘institutions and conventions which cause more human misery than is commonly supposed’, in favour of a ‘fair and natural co-education’, through which, he supposes, ‘I might have had a comely wife and two or three children growing up’.

5. Romilly (Giles and Esmond) *Out of Bounds*. The Education of... Hamish Hamilton, 1935, FIRST EDITION, frontispiece photograph of the authors, some light foxing, pp. 310, crown 8vo, original blue cloth, backstrip lettered in silver and lightly sunned through the jacket, lean to spine, spots to edges, dustjacket with cancel flaps (as issued), design to front and backstrip panels by J.L. Carstairs, a little chipped and nicked at extremities with some light soiling and a few spots to rear panel, very good **£500**

An account of a firebrand adolescence, written whilst both authors were still in their teens, detailing their battle with the public school system - as represented in their case by Wellington College, ‘where they became allies in a rebellion against the militaristic and conservative values’ (ODNB). Experiencing an awakening to left-wing politics quite at odds with the upbringing and education, they set about a programme of activism that included inserting pacifist leaflets inside the hymn-books at the school’s Armistice Day service, and launching a magazine with the same title as the present account - the furore provoked by which (the Daily Mail alerted its readers to the ‘Red Menace in Public Schools’) led to Esmond absconding, before a brief return to the education system at the co-educational Bedales, following which they launched their literary careers with this ‘precocious and unexpectedly even-tempered’ work (ODNB).

Both brothers continued their communist activity by joining the International Brigades to fight against Franco in the Spanish Civil War, with Esmond there marrying Jessica Mitford - a cause for further controversy. During the Second World War, Giles, working as a war correspondent in Scandinavia, was imprisoned at Colditz; Esmond, meanwhile, had also worked as a journalist, in the US, but returned to England and disappeared whilst on service as a navigator on a flight destined for a raid on Hamburg.

6. Torberg (Friedrich) *The Examination*. Translated by F.A. Voigt. Chatto & Windus, 1932, FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH, spots to borders of final few leaves, pp. [vi], 310, crown 8vo, original red cloth, backstrip lettered in black and faded, spots of discolouration to boards, light spotting to edges, ownership inscription to flyleaf, dustjacket darkened around the backstrip panel, very good **£650**

A novel of oppressive schooling, in part based on the authors own experiences but also evoking the spate of suicides among schoolchildren in 1929, a fact noted by the author early in the text.

Torberg's work, 'Der Schüler Gerber hat absolviert', was banned by the Nazis; it ranks with the earlier 'Die Verwirrungen des Zöglings Törleß', by fellow-Austrian Robert Musil (who admired Torberg's novel) as a study of the brutal and often tragic power imbalance within an educational setting, as a microcosm of intergenerational encounters within the wider society.

The author's first novel, which he was encouraged to publish by Max Brod. The only one of his works to be translated into English.

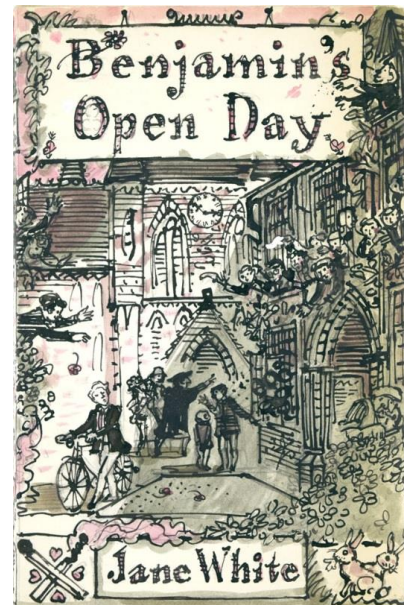
WITH THE ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR THE DUSTJACKET, BY JOHN LAWRENCE

7. White (Jane) *Benjamin's Open Day*. Hamish Hamilton, 1979, FIRST EDITION, pp. [iv], 186, crown 8vo, original sage green boards, backstrip lettered in black, a couple of tiny spots to top edge, dustjacket, near fine **£500**

[With:] The original design for the dustjacket, by John Lawrence: ink and watercolour on paper with some pencil sketching visible, a couple of small uses of white for correction, but the palette (as outlined in a couple of dabs on the rear panel) grey and pink, folded around the book to form a dummy of the dustjacket

Though largely forgotten, Jane White published a handful of novels - many of which were concerned with, and written for, adolescents with, as the blurb on the printed dustjacket puts it 'an element of horror [...] running through them'. In the present work the protagonist, a misfit - who 'keeps rabbits' and 'is also interested in fire: very interested indeed' - exercises the latter interest only in wreaking revenge on the boys and masters that make his life a misery at his 'exclusive public school'.

The dustjacket is an attractive design by John Lawrence, his original sketch broadly similar to the printed version, but with some differences in the detail that confirm it as an early version. Lawrence is one of the foremost British illustrators of the last fifty years; his work includes illustrations for Philip Pullman, Susan Hill's 'The Woman in Black', books for The Whittington Press and The Fleece Press, and 'Watership Down', as well as his own 'Rabbit and Pork' (there are also two small rabbits in the corner of the present design, reflecting Benjamin's interest, should we be searching for recurrent themes).



8. Worsley (T.C.) *Barbarians and Philistines*. Democracy and the Public Schools. Robert Hale, n.d. [circa 1940,] FIRST EDITION, sliver of waterstaining to fore-margin of prelims, receding into text and recurrent at rear, pp. 282, [2], 8vo, original black cloth, backstrip lettered in white with slight lean to spine, sliver of waterstaining to fore-margins of endpapers (bottom corner), light foxing to same, at foot of rear pastedown the pencilled purchase note of Jonathan Gili, good **£100**

Inscribed by the author on the flyleaf: 'John, in gratitude for many things in the past and hopes for a [?] future, Cuthbert'. The recipient was author and publisher John Lehmann, whose enthusiastic opinion of Worsley's earlier book, 'Behind the Battle' is among the reviews quoted at the rear. Lehmann would subsequently publish Worsley's 'The Fugitive Art'.

