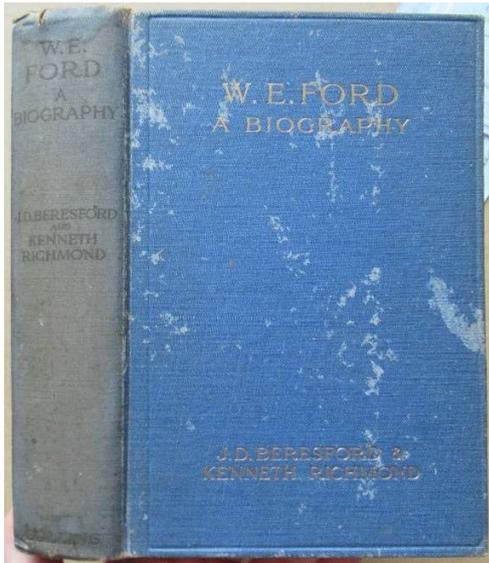


Jonathan Frost Rare Books Limited



A Catalogue of John Davys
Beresford & Esmé Wynne-Tyson



1. **Beresford, J. D. & Kenneth Richmond. W. E. Ford: A Biography.**

London: W. Collins Sons & Co. Ltd, 1917.

First edition. Jon Wynne-Tyson's copy, with some notes by him tucked in and passages in the book highlighted. Jon Wynne-Tyson was the son of Esmé Wynne-Tyson, who was Beresford's partner and collaborator during the final 8 years of his life. The book is reasonably firmly bound in bumped, rubbed and marked blue cloth, lettered in gilt. The text block is slightly toned, dusty, foxed and stained, with cracking at points, the frontispiece portrait of Ford is present. An interesting and entertaining mock-biography of the non-existent, Ford, is the vehicle for discussing the political, physical and philosophical problems of the age, including the failure of capitalism and the case for state socialism.

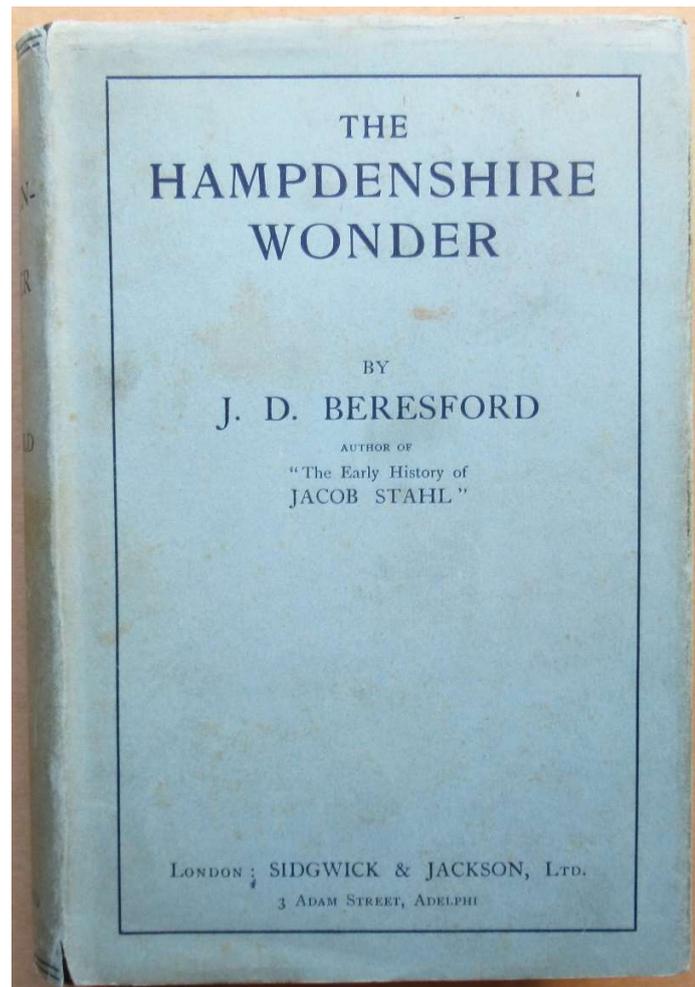
£35

2. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Hampdenhire Wonder.**

London: Sidgwick & Jackson, Ltd., 1911.

First edition. Signed by Beresford to the reverse of the half-title. The book is firmly bound in clean dark green cloth lettered in bright gilt to the spine. The extremities are a little bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly toned and dusty with foxing to the edges and the earlier and later leaves. The dust jacket is the original and correctly priced at 6/- to the spine, it is lightly rubbed and grubby, with minor chips and short closed tears to the edges, the spine is slightly sunned. Beresford's best known work, his second novel, but dealing with familiar themes, the future of humanity, and the question of whether communities and access to the theories and ideas of previous generations (in this case in the form of a large library) are helpful to progress. The vehicle Beresford uses to illustrate this is a super-normally intelligent child, born to an exceptional cricketer, injured in his prime, who wants to pass his skills on to a child who has not already acquired bad (bowling) habits, and an intelligent woman, in a small, rural, not exactly god-fearing, but generally superstitious, community. It was a novel that caught the mood of the early twentieth century, arriving on the back of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, Nietzsche's superman and the tremendous pace of scientific progress in the late-nineteenth century, and was reprinted numerous times up to Beresford's death in the late 1940s. The publishers of this first edition evidently recognised a winner when they saw it and backed their judgement with a large print run, meaning that many still survive, but signed copies in pre-WW1 dust jackets are less common.

£850

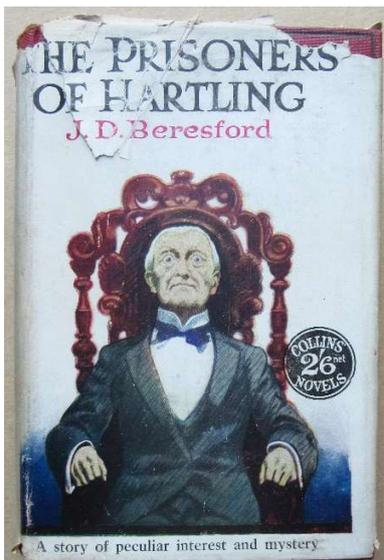


3. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Prisoners of Hartling.**

London: W. Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., 1923.

Fifth edition. The book is firmly bound in slightly rubbed and marked red cloth, lettered and bordered in black, the extremities are bumped. The text block is toned and dusty with minor foxing and cracking at points. The dust jacket is the original, it is toned, rubbed and grubby with loss and closed tears, some repaired with small pieces of archival tape to the reverse. An entertaining mystery novel, in which a young panel doctor, disillusioned and disgruntled after his war work and seeking a more pleasant existence than that of assisting the impoverished folk of Peckham, accepts an invitation to visit some rich but peculiar relations for a weekend, and finds himself compelled to extend his visit.

£45

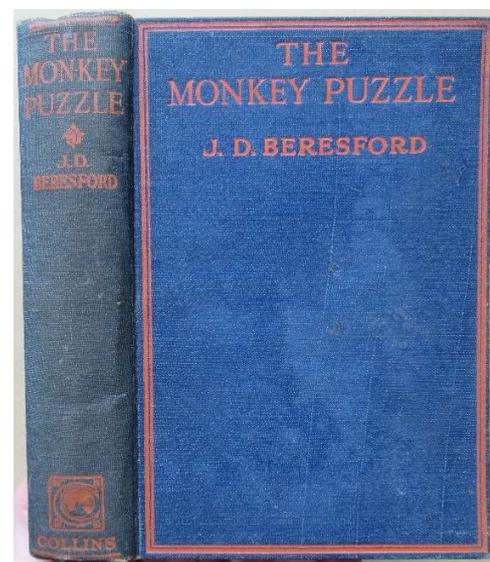


4. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Monkey Puzzle.**

London: W. Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., 1925.

First edition. Reasonably firmly bound in dark blue cloth, lettered and bordered in red, the cloth is slightly bumped, marked and rubbed. The text block is age toned, heavily foxed and slightly dusty. A novel which explores the nature of trust, knowledge and understanding, contrasted with logical thought, wider societal consequences and responsibilities, truth and the individual and how much of that should be sacrificed to the common good, within a marriage, a family or a village, what form should the sacrifice take, and where does the responsibility lie? That's all I got from a hour's skim read, but my impression was that it was powerful, thought provoking stuff. Quite rare as a first edition.

£30

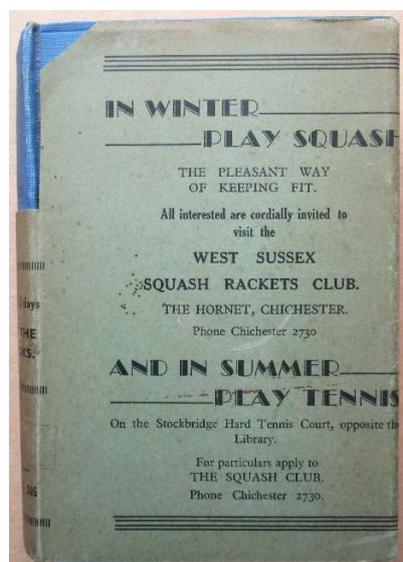


5. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). That Kind of Man.**

London: W. Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., 1926.

First edition, in second issue binding of mid-blue with black lettering. An ex-library copy. The boards are bumped and rubbed with minor marks, the book is reasonably firmly bound. The text block is toned, dusty and cracked at points, with stamps and evidence of old library labels to the front endpaper and pastedown, the rear endpaper has been removed and there are further signs of old labels to the rear pastedown. Perhaps the most interesting thing about the book is the 1920s disposable library dust cover, designed with a cut out section to the top of the spine so that the title of the book can be seen, and utilising every surface to advertise businesses in the Chichester region, it is slightly rubbed, marked and toned, but generally in good order. Published in the mid-1920s (under the title 'Almost Pagan' in the U.S.) and set in 1923, this Beresford novel sees him contemplating the "Jazz Age" spirit, possibly in a more transparently self-reflective manner than usual, given that the main protagonist is a restless middle-aged writer whose "novels had never been a great success.". The opening page sets the tone, with our hero musing about: "A flapper that he had danced with a few nights ago".

£45

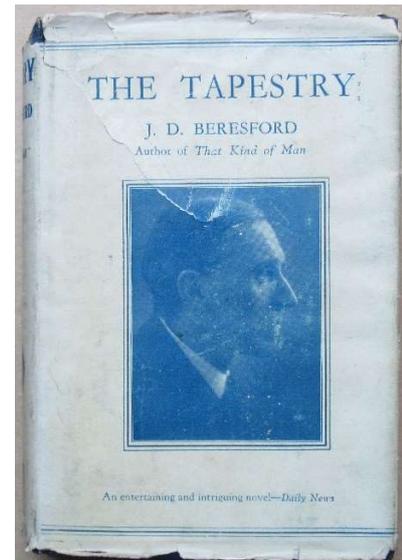


6. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Tapestry.**

London: W. Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., 1927.

First edition. The book is firmly bound in dark blue cloth, lettered and bordered in red, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is age toned, slightly dusty and quite heavily foxed. The dust jacket is the original, it is quite toned, rubbed and grubby, with areas of loss and closed tears of varying lengths. A young man's life collapses, as a dissolute, semi-bohemian man he thought to be his father, yet increasingly despised, transpires to be just that, his father, whereas the mother he worships turns out not to be his mother. He leaves his father beginning a new life at the age of 43 with a French mistress, and begins to make his own way in the world, working as a labourer and then a mason in Nice. There is also an actual tapestry, which plays a literal and metaphorical role in the story. Quite uncommon in the dust jacket.

£50

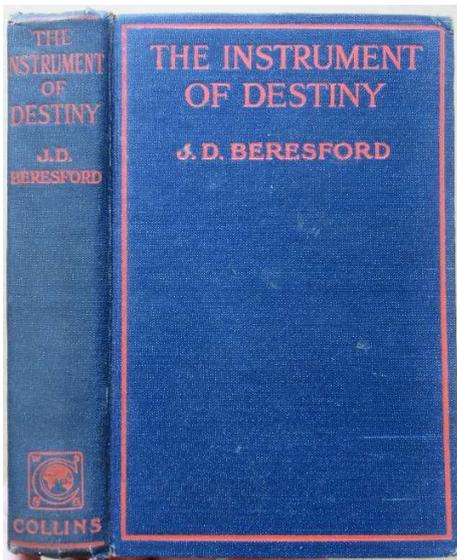


7. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Instrument of Destiny.**

London: W. Collins Sons & Co Ltd, 1928.

First edition. The book is reasonably firmly bound in dark blue cloth lettered and bordered in red, the extremities are bumped and rubbed, the spine is a little faded and the cloth lightly marked. The text block is toned and foxed, with a former owner's name and address to the front endpaper and a contemporary review gummed to the front pastedown, there is loss to the front pastedown and signs of the removal of another gummed piece of paper from the front endpaper. A gently paced crime novel, involving a poisoning and, as the title suggests, an unexpected method of its delivery to the victim.

£30

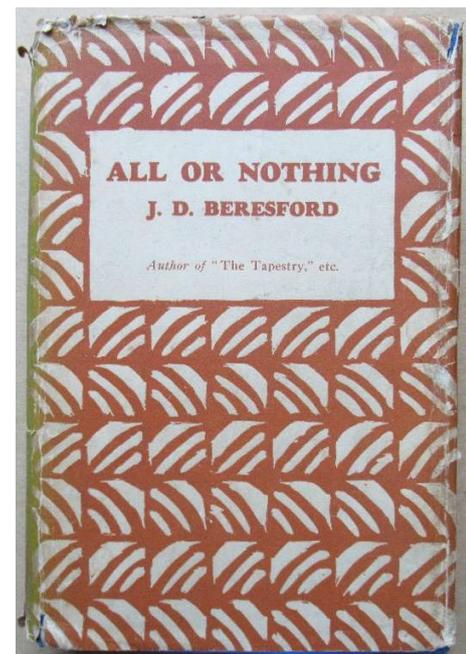


8. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). All or Nothing.**

London: W. Collins Sons & Co Ltd, 1928.

Second impression, not stated as such, but in the typical cheaper Collins reprint format of lighter blue cloth with black lettering and a price of 3/6 to the dust jacket. The book is firmly bound, the boards are slightly toned and marked, with bumping and rubbing to the extremities. The text block is toned, dusty and slightly foxed. The dust jacket is the original, it is toned and badly faded to the spine, with rubbing, minor loss and short closed tears to the edges, repaired or strengthened with small pieces of archival tape to the reverse.

£45

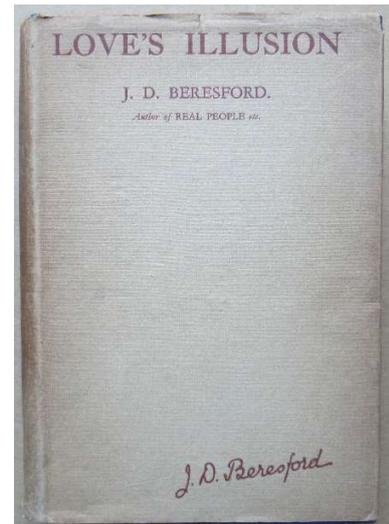


9. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). Love's Illusion.**

London: W. Collins Sons & Co Ltd, 1930.

Third impression, February 1930, the month after the first. The book is firmly bound in blue cloth, lettered and bordered in black, the extremities are bumped, rubbed and toned. The text block is age toned and dusty, with minor foxing. The dust jacket is the original, it is somewhat toned and grubby, with minor loss and short closed tears to the edges, as well as fading and rubbing to the spine. A long look at the nature of love, infatuation and disillusion. One of Beresford's more uncommon novels.

£30

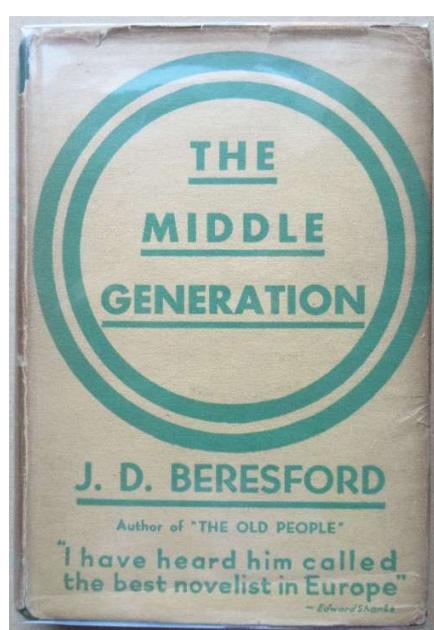


10. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Middle Generation.**

New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1933.

First U.S. edition, published the year after the U.K edition. The book is reasonably firmly bound in green cloth lettered and decorated in gilt, the extremities are bumped and rubbed and the spine is sunned. The text block is slightly foxed, dusty and age toned. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is toned and grubby with small areas of loss and closed tears, some repaired to the reverse with archival tape. An entertaining novel, as the title indicates, the middle novel of a trilogy, a family saga which began with the 'The Old People' and ends with 'The Young People'.

£50

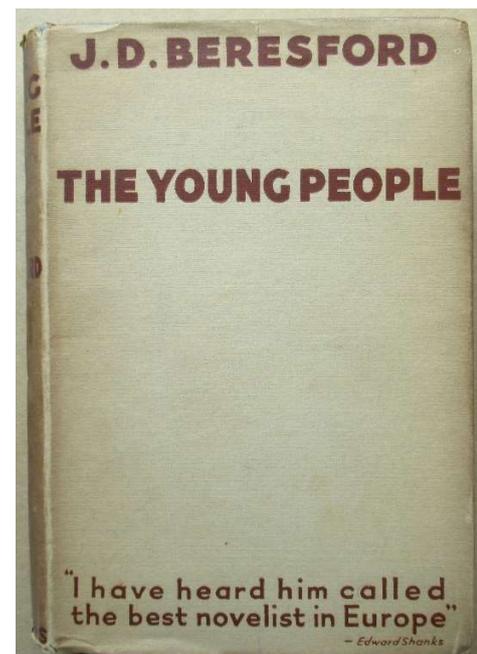


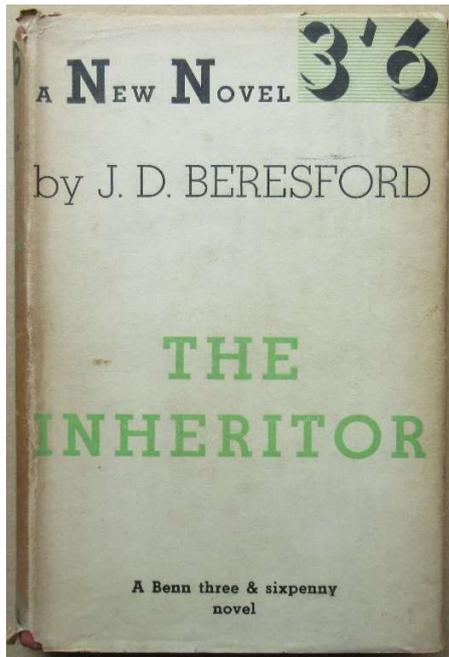
11. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Young People.**

London: Collins, 1933.

2nd impression, published in the same month as the first edition. From the estate of Esmé Wynne-Tyson, Beresford's partner and collaborator during the last eight years of his life, with a letter from the publisher to Beresford presenting him two copies of 'The Middle Generation' loosely inserted. The book is firmly bound in clean, slightly bumped and faded blue cloth, lettered in darker blue to the spine. The text block is slightly foxed dusty and age toned, with a few pencil notes and highlighted passages, in the hand of Esmé Wynne-Tyson. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is toned, more heavily to the spine, grubby and rubbed with minor loss and closed tears to the edges. The final novel in Beresford's trilogy, set in the early years of the twentieth century, overshadowed by the events of the First World War, and chronicling the fortunes of the Hillington family.

£125



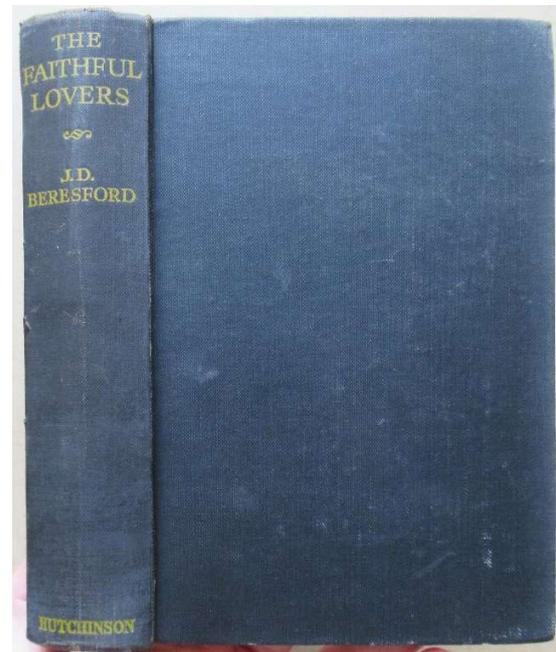


12. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Inheritor.**

London: Ernest Benn Limited, 1933.

First edition. The book is firmly bound in slightly bumped and faded red cloth, lettered in black to the spine. The text block is age browned, dusty and slightly foxed, with minor cracking at points. The dust jacket is the original, it is toned and slightly grubby, with minor loss and closed tears to the edges, some repaired with small pieces of archival tape to the reverse. A short, satirical look at what constitutes a good life and how this intersects with society and money, as an older brother inherits his father's entire fortune, but wants nothing more than to be left to run his chicken farm, leaving his wife and younger brother thoroughly dissatisfied. Quite a rare Beresford title.

£100

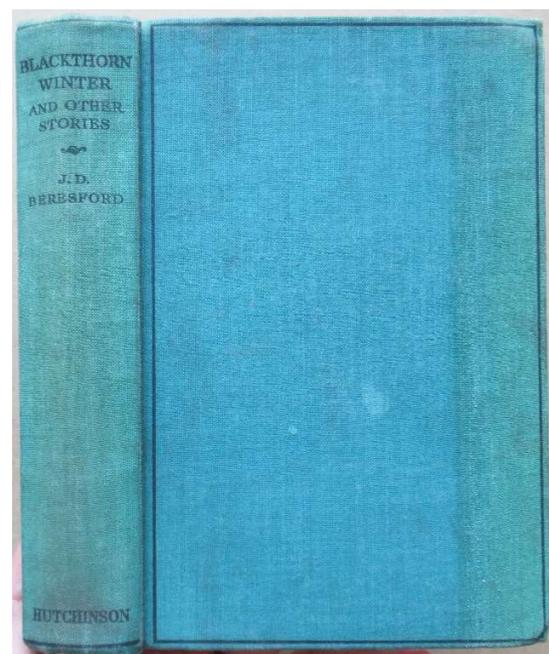


13. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Faithful Lovers.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1936.

First edition. The book is firmly bound in black cloth lettered in yellow to the spine, the boards are quite bumped, rubbed and marked with a few minor chips and splits to the cloth along the spine, which has become slightly brittle. The text block is slightly toned, foxed and dusty. A romance set across the 1910s, describing a young man's attempts to overcome the prejudices of class and conscience (the father of the woman he loves is a General, he is a conscientious objector during WW1), and the minor matter of being unjustly accused of having fathered an illegitimate child. Quite rare as a first edition.

£25



14. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). Blackthorn Winter and Other Stories.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1936.

First edition. The book is reasonably firmly bound in green cloth lettered and bordered in black, the cloth is quite marked, stained and rubbed and the extremities are bumped. The text block is age browned, foxed and dusty, the front endpaper has been removed. A collection of short stories and sketches, many romance, several crime or detective.

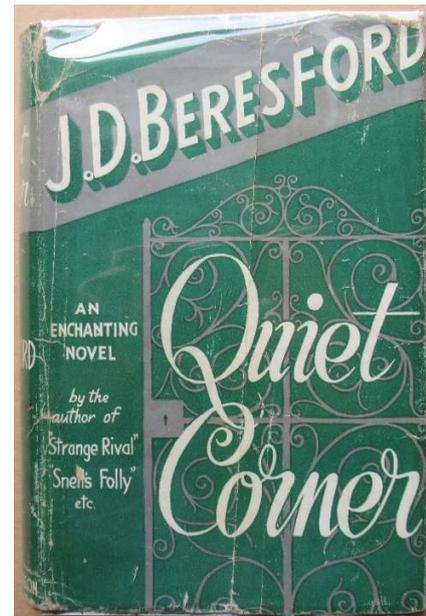
£20

15. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). Quiet Corner.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers), Ltd, 1940.

First edition. The book is reasonably firmly bound in bumped, rubbed and slightly marked cloth, lettered in black. The text block is slightly foxed, dusty and age toned. The dust jacket is the original, but not in good shape, having spent much of its life folded into the book, it is lacking most of the front flap and otherwise creased and rubbed, with minor marks and tears, some repaired to the reverse with archival tape. A lightly fantastical love story, in which a young man gives up a lucrative but unsatisfactory career as a stockbroker, moves to a community of societal non-conformists and criminals of various sorts, called Halcyon Place, whose inhabitants are enabled to exist and live as they wish to live by the mysterious owner, Uncle John. One of Beresford's scarcer titles, dedicated to his platonic, vegetarian soulmate, Esmé Wynne-Tyson, and I assume at least partly written with her, as they co-authored 10 or 11 books, although due to legal complications she is only officially credited on a small number.

£80

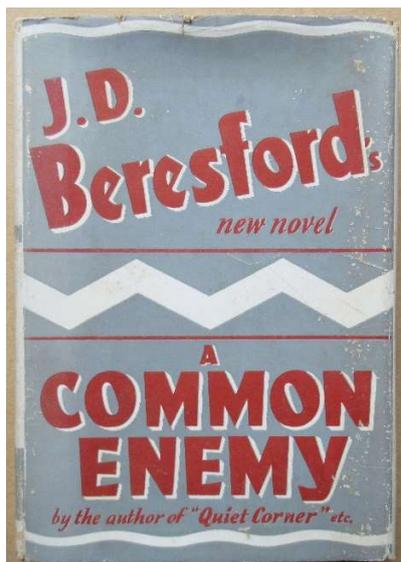


16. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). A Common Enemy.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., 1941.

First edition. The book is reasonably firmly bound in slightly toned light blue cloth, lettered in black, the boards are slightly bumped and bowed. The text block is age toned, foxed and slightly dusty, with minor cracking at points. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is grubby and rubbed, with fading to the spine and there are minor chips and short closed tears to the edges. A rogue body careers through the solar system, slightly altering the positions of the planets and causing a global cataclysm on earth, instantly ending WW2 and re-ordering society: "Adolf Hitler [...] was found all alone, crouching in a wood, and hopelessly insane. All the bombast had gone out of him, leaving a shrinking, pitiful creature, suffering from the delusion that the whole world was combining to seek him out and kill him.". Quite a rare utopian fantasy novel, I believe one of the collaborations with his platonic vegetarian partner, Esmé Wynne-Tyson with whom he co-habited, though Esmé was not officially recognised on most of their collaborations for legal reasons.

£120

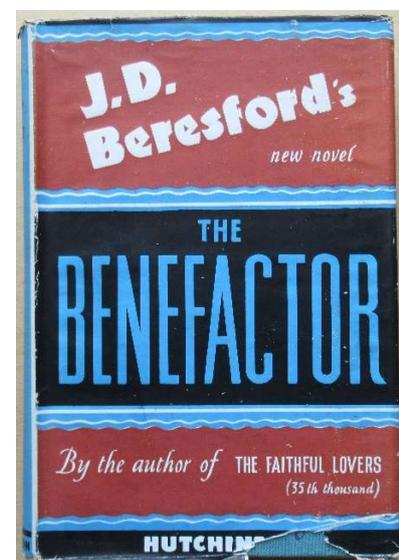


17. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Benefactor.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1943.

First edition. The book is firmly bound in clean blue cloth lettered in purple, the extremities are a little bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly toned and dusty with minor foxing. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly grubby and rubbed with small areas of loss and short closed tears to the edges. A novel set in the late 1920s, discussing the nature of money, power, the desirability of social change and whether that could be successfully brought about by violent revolution. Quite an uncommon Beresford novel, I believe at least partly co-authored by his then partner, Esmé Wynne-Tyson, although she is not officially credited due to legal complications.

£60

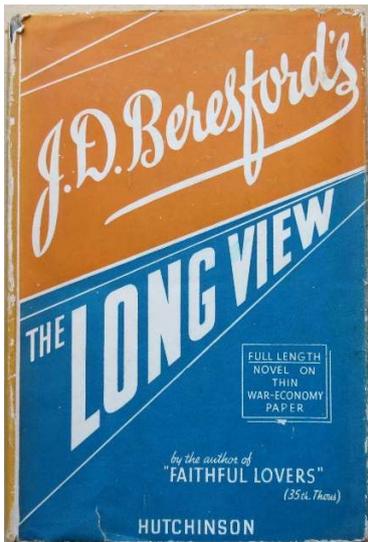


18. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Long View.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. , 1943.

First edition. The book is firmly bound in slightly bumped and grubby blue cloth, lettered in red. The text block is toned and dusty with minor foxing. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is rubbed and grubby with minor loss and closed tears to the edges, some repaired to the reverse with small pieces of archival tape. A novel, I think to an extent co-authored by Beresford's then partner, Esmé Wynne-Tyson, though she was not officially credited for legal reasons, dealing with the varying fortunes of twins, born in 1880 and coming of age at the beginning of the Edwardian period, as they progress through life, based upon their choices and those made for them by their parents. Quite uncommon as a first edition.

£45

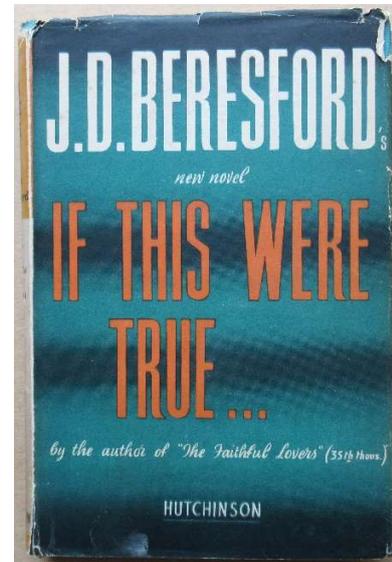


19. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). If This Were True....**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1944.

First edition. The book is firmly bound in turquoise blue cloth lettered in red, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly toned and dusty with minor foxing. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly toned and grubby with minor loss and short closed tears to the edges, some repaired to the reverse with small pieces of archival tape. A novel, I believe co-authored by Beresford's then partner, Esmé Wynne-Tyson, describing the effect of reading the New Testament for the first time by a young man who has been brought up along strictly scientific lines, not atheist or agnostic, but simply unaware of the existence of Christianity, and the effects that the book has upon him and his behaviour.

£45



20. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys). The Prisoner.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., 1946.

First edition. The book is firmly bound in black cloth lettered in gilt, the boards are showing signs of exposure to damp, the gilt is tarnished to the spine and the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is toned, dusty and slightly foxed. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly rubbed and grubby with small chips and short closed tears to the edges, there is also some damp staining. A novel that specifically states on the front flap blurb that: "the curious must not imagine that this novel is autobiographical. All novelists draw upon their own experiences and invest them with their imagination.". The novel follows the experiences of a man, Paul, born in the late nineteenth century, who becomes a novelist, describing how he arrives at his spiritual and political views, how his career as a writer develops, relative to his friends, contemporary novelists such as H. G. Wells, D. H. Lawrence and Kathleen Mansfield, and continues to detail his experiences up to the Second World War, by which time he has separated from his wife and in 1939 formed a purely intellectual and spiritual union with a woman named Gemma, also a writer, describing their plans to collaborate together, and how "the sexual relation almost invariably spoils that intellectual friendship between a man and a woman. But, in any case, there could never



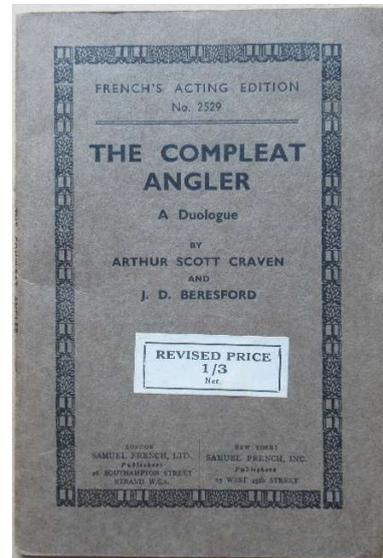
have been anything of that kind between him and poor little Carol. She was an essentially stupid woman.”. The parallels between Paul’s experiences and Beresford’s are striking, but best ignored, especially if you are Beresford’s former wife! The novel is from the estate of Jon Wynne-Tyson, Esmé Wynne-Tyson’s son, and there are pencil notes and highlighting to the final section of the book, dealing with the disintegration of Paul’s marriage and meeting with Gemma, the notes being in Gemma’s, sorry I mean Esmé’s, hand; Esmé having formed a purely intellectual and spiritual union with Beresford in 1939, collaborating with him in his writing until Beresford’s death in 1947.

£45

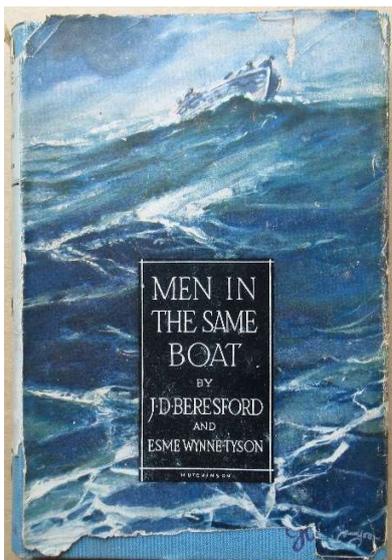
21. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys) & Arthur Scott Craven. The Compleat Angler A Duologue.**

London: Samuel French, Ltd., 1915.

First edition. 24 pages, bound in grey card wraps lettered and decorated in black, the extremities are lightly bumped and rubbed and there is a re-pricing sticker to the front cover. The text block is slightly toned, with minor marks and creases to a few pages. A short comic play, paralleling the landing of a fish with the landing of a “confirmed bachelor” by a young woman.



£40



22. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys) and Esmé Wynne-Tyson. Men in the Same Boat.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1943.

Second impression. The book is firmly bound in blue cloth lettered in darker blue to the front board and spine, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly toned and dusty with minor foxing. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is rubbed and grubby, with quite significant areas of loss as well as smaller chips and short closed tears to the edges. A disorientating, swirling tale of seven shipwrecked men adrift in a boat, days from any possible land, and the visions they experience of possible alternative realities and fates.

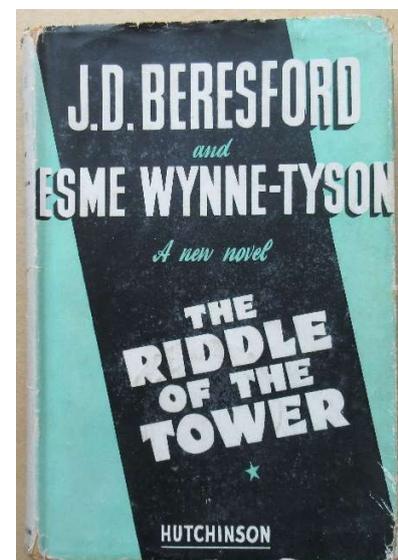
£25

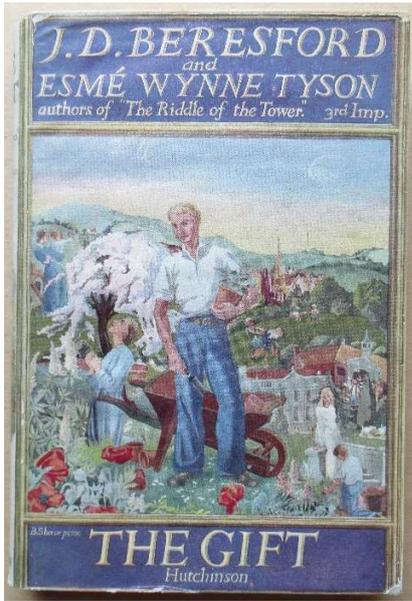
23. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys) and Esmé Wynne-Tyson. The Riddle of the Tower.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., 1944.

First edition. The book is firmly bound in light brown cloth lettered in green, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly toned, dusty and foxed. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly grubby and rubbed, with small chips and short closed tears to the edges, some repaired with small pieces of tape to the reverse. A novel written and set during World War Two, describing the visions of the future glimpsed by a Mr Begbie after he is caught in an explosion during an air raid, mostly concerned with political models of society taken to their ultimate conclusion. After Begbie awakes he remembers his visions and feels compelled to find somebody to help interpret them.

£100





24. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys) and Esmé Wynne-Tyson. The Gift.**

London: Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., 1947.

First edition. The book is firmly bound in light grey cloth lettered in blue to the spine, the boards are slightly bumped and toned. The text block is slightly toned and dusty with minor foxing. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly rubbed and grubby with minor nicks and short closed tears to the edges. Beresford's final novel, published following his death, dealing largely with the Christian message and how this translates into action in the modern world, the protagonist is a pacifist who refuses to fight in the Second World War.

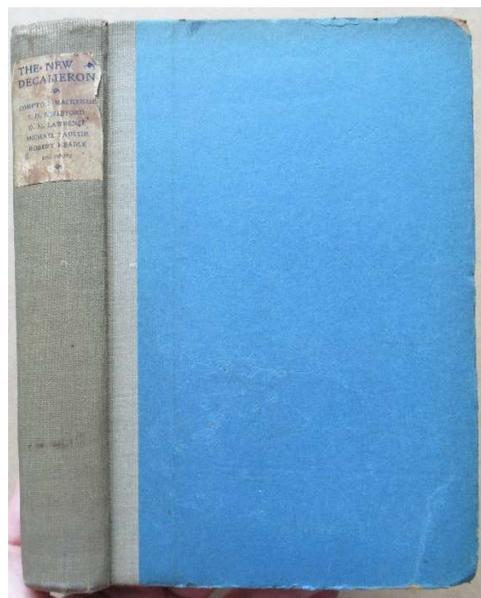
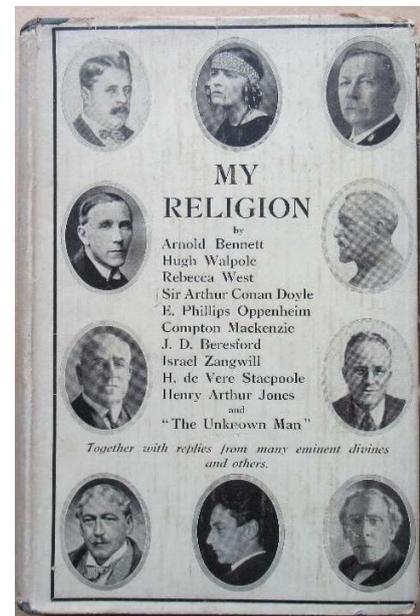
£25

25. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys), Arthur Conan Doyle, Rebecca West, Hugh Walpole, Arnold Bennett etc. My Religion.**

London: Hutchinson & Co., 1926.

First edition. Undated, but published in 1926 according to the British Library, which seems about right to judge from other titles mentioned on the dust jacket. The book is reasonably firmly bound in grey cloth lettered in black, the corners and spine ends are bumped and rubbed. The text block is toned, dusty and slightly foxed. The dust jacket, illustrated with small black and white portrait photographs of the contributors to the front panel, is the original, it is grubby and rubbed with minor chips and short closed tears to the edges. As the title indicates, a reflection upon religion from each of the contributors in the years after World War One, originally published in the Daily Express and here collected for the first time.

£40



26. **Beresford, J. D. (John Davys), D. H. Lawrence, Storm Jameson, Norman Davey, Vita Sackville West etc. The New Decameron - The Third Volume.**

Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1922.

First edition. The book is reasonably firmly bound in blue paper covered boards with a grey cloth backstrip and paper spine label, the boards are rubbed and chipped to the edges, the extremities are bumped, there are grubby marks and the spine label is browned and chipped. The text block is foxed, dusty and age toned.

£25