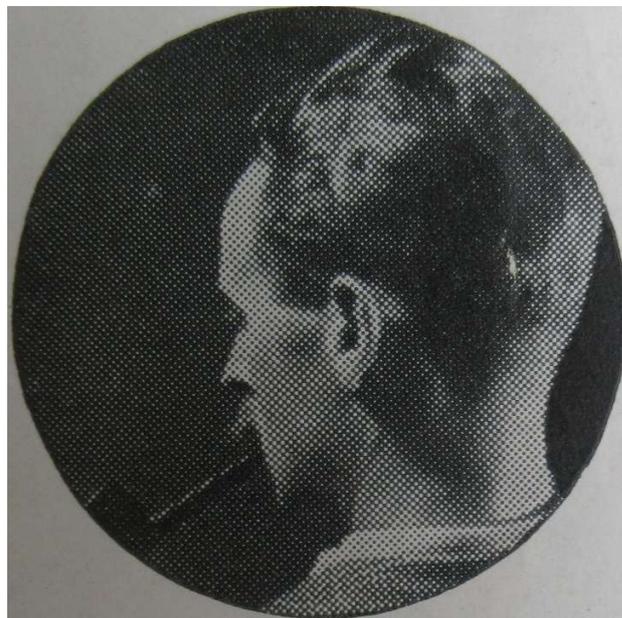


# Jonathan Frost Rare Books Limited



The Crime & Gangster Pulp Fiction of Nat Karta,  
Hans Vogel & Hyman Zoré

“...The trick being that I had an ex-service-men’s paper-quota – which made me legit. [...] So I wrote *The Merry Virgin* by Nat Karta. Thorpe and Porter of Leicester approached me, and promptly agreed to buy fifty thousand Karta’s a month. That was it. I then invented Hans Vogel and Hyman Zore which added another eighty thousand a month. I was in the money.” (John Watson, quoted in Steve Holland’s *The Mushroom Jungle*, 1993)

John Watson, the founder of the Glasgow Publishing house, Muir-Watson Ltd, in conjunction with silent partner John Muir, created the three house names to capitalize on the burgeoning market for American gangster fiction and wrote many of the early novels published under all three, beginning in 1949 and ending in 1952 when the rights were sold to the larger London publisher Scion. As with Hank Janson there was an attempt to create plausible biographies behind the names, emphasizing the first-hand American low-life tough credentials, and adding author photographs to flesh out the illusion (apparently at least one of the photographs on the opposite page is of John Watson!). There follows a list of 55 titles, with an additional 2 duplicates. I’ve provided details wherever possible of the likely authors behind the names.

1. **Karta, Nat. Too Good for the Poor.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., Circa 1950.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, the covers are slightly rubbed, creased and stained, with some faint writing to the front cover, the spine is crumpled and there are some minor slivers of paper loss at the edges. The text block is toned, the rear more than the front as it is evidently of inferior paper stock, it is slightly foxed and stained with dog-eared corners to some pages. One of the truly bizarre late-1940s/early-1950s crime/gangster pulps written by British authors who had never visited the United States, but seem to think that one of the most effective ways of assuring readers of their all-American credentials is to mention the country frequently. On page 9 alone, for instance, the following phrases appear: “honest-to-goodness Americans”, “good, old U.S.A.”, “typical American mother” and “American hell”.

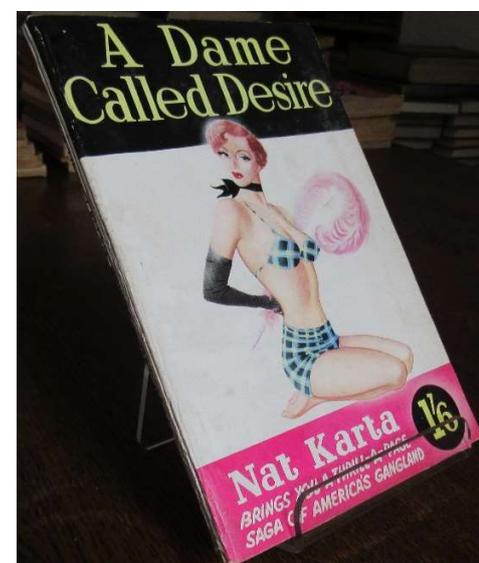
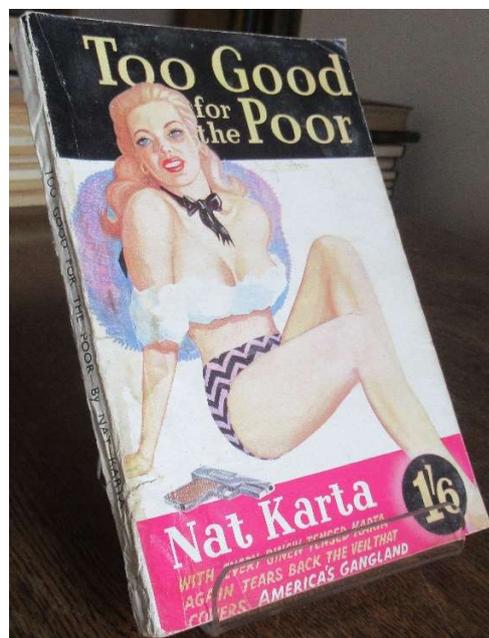
£140

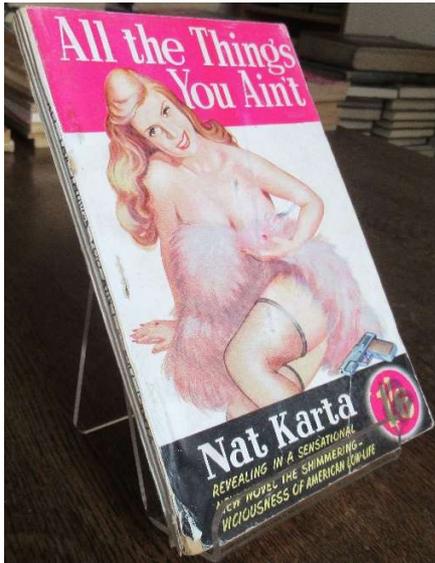
2. **Karta, Nat. A Dame Called Desire.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are lightly rubbed and somewhat grubby, with some creasing, more so to the spine, which has a small chip to the bottom. The text block is age browned and slightly marked. The dame in question is quite literally called Desire, Raneé Desire, who is involved with the mob and happy to double cross gangster turned private detective, Seth Dolman if there’s enough dough involved. Quite a rare early Nat Karta crime pulp and surprisingly well preserved.

£135





3. **Karta, Nat. All the Things You Ain't.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are somewhat stained and grubby, with the original price inked out and a new lower price carelessly scrawled over the front panel illustration, there is some creasing, particularly to the spine and minor paper loss. The text block is age browned with some minor marks and a red ink squiggle to the title page, possibly indicating that the book had failed to find a buyer; one of the pages remains uncut which is a fair indication that nobody had ever read it all the way through. Another tough authentically American crime pulp, this one with a New York setting and an Irish-American dame, Francy Dolan, a cop's daughter seemingly gone to the bad and shackled up with mobster "Big Shot", Red Anver. Unusually for a Muir-Watson pulp of this period, while it has a typically gory finish, there's a final page of

romantic redemption and a promise, for some of the characters, of living happily ever after in a life outside of crime.

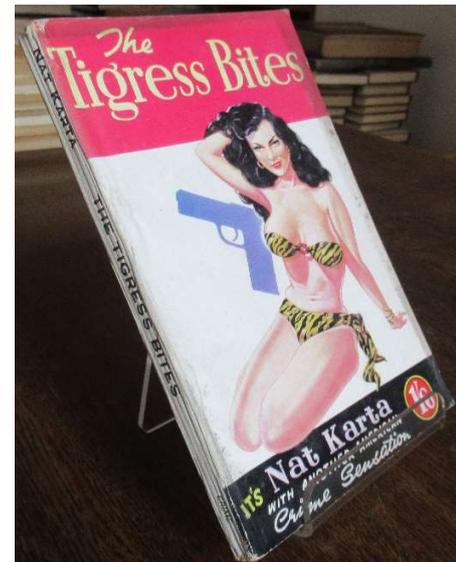
£65

4. **Karta, Nat. The Tigress Bites.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are somewhat grubby and slightly rubbed, with creasing to the spine and some minor paper loss at the spine tips. The text block is age browned and lightly marked. One of the more uncommon Karta crime pulps, seemingly just pre-dating 'Bravely to Bed', and written in an unusual style, somewhere between a stream of consciousness and a retrospective narrative, which is quite disorientating, and filled with tangled jungle animal metaphors.

£160



5. **Karta, Nat. Once Bitten Twice Bitten.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps. The front cover has a tear across the middle, with associated creasing and a small piece in danger of becoming detached, it has also lost its top right corner, the spine is creased with a small amount of paper loss at the bottom and several other nicks and closed tears, the rear cover is slightly grubby with several nicks and short closed tears to the edges. The text block is age toned and dusty with creased corners, also small tears and a small amount of loss from the top corner of the half title page. A struggling young metal polish salesman meets Chicago mob boss, Buzz Vega in a small town, along with beautiful waitress Loretta, who is looking for a way out, and ends up deep in a world of crime and death.

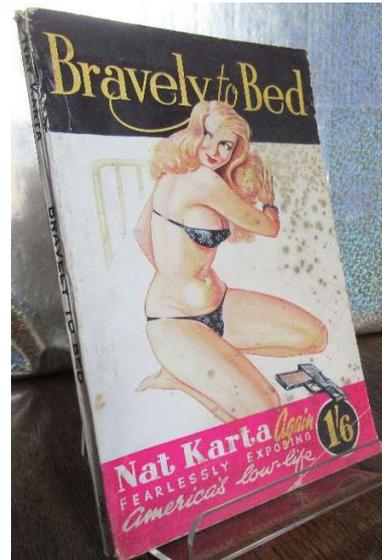
£35



6. **Karta, Nat. Bravely to Bed.** Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby, rubbed and mottled with some creasing, the spine is slightly creased with minor paper loss at the ends. The text block is age toned, slightly foxed and dusty, with grubby marks to the first and last pages. Gloria King, daughter of wealthy steel tycoon, Cyrus Z. King is kidnapped in San Francisco, but, bored with her pampered & sheltered life, she develops a taste for the excitement of mob life and decides to stay with killer Largo regardless of whether or not a ransom is paid. Obviously the only possibly explanation for this in Cyrus's opinion is insanity, after all: "her mother died ... like this ... her mind went the same way ...", it would be ridiculous to take into account that the common factor in both cases is Cyrus. Perhaps the 8th Karta novel to be published, seemingly preceding 'Turn off the Heat'.

£120

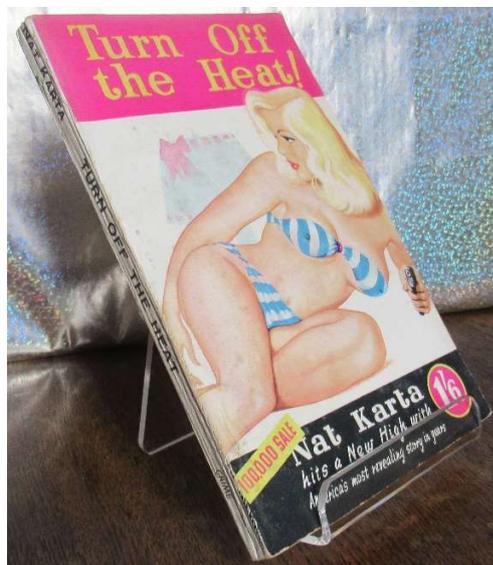


7. **Karta, Nat. Turn Off the Heat!** Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly marked and rubbed with minor nicks to the spine and spotting to the rear panel. The text block is age toned and slightly foxed with some minor stains. A young woman tries to escape the boredom and narrow options of a small town, and becomes embroiled in a life of crime and sexual exploitation. The title was used as an example of the extreme violence to be found in gangster fiction by Steve Holland in 'The Mushroom Jungle' (1993): "She stopped suddenly as he took his hand away from his face. Almost, she was appalled at the sight of her own work. The left side of his face was deeply scored. It looked as though he had been clawed by a tigress. Most horrible of all, his eye hung out on his cheek and the ball was split like a rotten

orange.". There's a greater depth of characterization than in the earlier Nat Karta novels, more plausible names, an occasional moral twist to the violence and a redemptive ending.

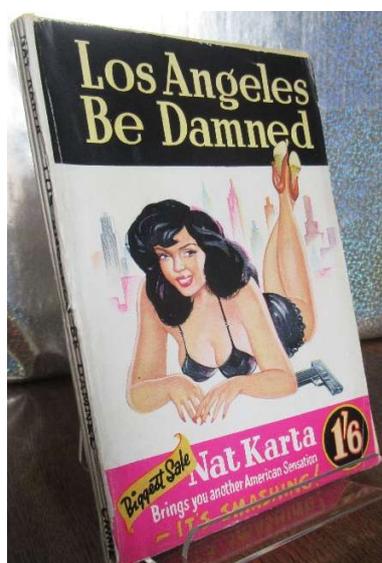
£160



8. **Karta, Nat. Los Angeles Be Damned.** Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and creased, more so to the spine, with a few minor nicks and a bookseller's stamp to the rear cover. The text block is age toned with some minor marks and slight curling of page corners. Nina Silver, a woman with a knowledge of autos, sets out to crack the Californian freight business and finds romance with thin-lipped, handsome gunman, Spark Connor, which concludes happily after the obligatory passages of gratuitous violence. Possibly the ninth or tenth Karta novel, quite a rarity, with seemingly no copies in libraries.

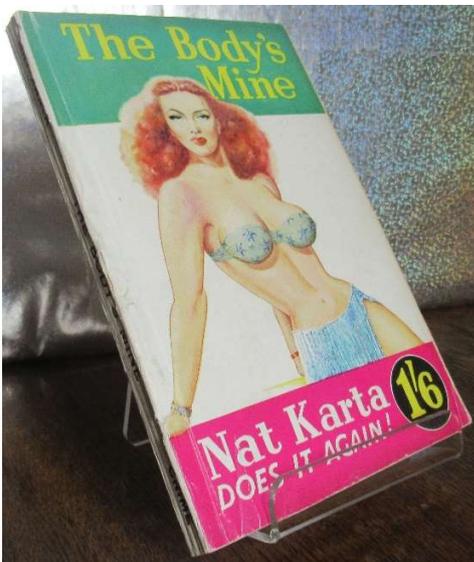
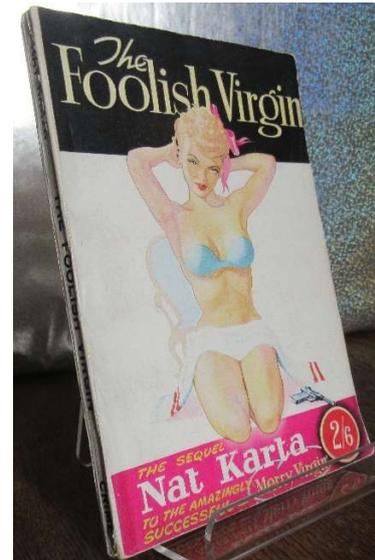
£160



9. **Karta, Nat. The Foolish Virgin.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and grubby, with some creasing to the spine and minor paper loss to the tips. The text block is age browned and lightly marked, page 21/22 has a folded over corner, evidently a printer's error that missed being trimmed as it is larger than the rest of the block when unfolded. The Foolish Virgin is Tango Larita, engaged to a poor but worthy mechanic, but seduced by reform school trained gunman, Cherokee Smith. A hard pulp to place in the Karta canon, it mentions 'A Dame Called Desire' as Karta's new novel to the rear cover, but also mentions 'Los Angeles be Damned', which would place it in 1951 and possibly the tenth or eleventh Karta novel. At any rate, it's a rarity and in remarkably good condition. **£160**



10. **Karta, Nat. The Body's Mine.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed, grubby and creased with some minor nicks and closed tears, there is also a bookseller's stamp to the rear cover. The text block is age toned and lightly marked with creasing to a few pages. If the rear covers and titles listed are to be believed this title was published after 'Los Angeles be Damned' and preceded 'The Foolish Virgin', making it possibly the tenth Karta novel. It opens with some great lines, the second of which is: "She thought that there was a hell of a lot of money in San Francisco but not much of it belonged to Poppy Delmore.", the scene is then set with an upsetting chapter exposing the reader to the workings of a lucrative blackmail racket which ends in a suicide, before Poppy gets drawn into the racket

and becomes "bait" for the mob's trap. A rare title, I can find no record of another copy's existence.

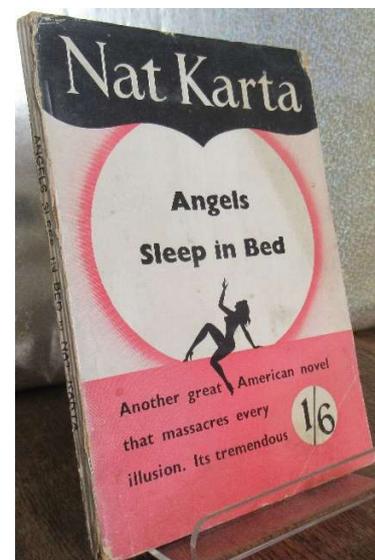
**£160**

11. **Karta, Nat. Angels Sleep in Bed.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are somewhat marked, creased and rubbed, with minor paper loss at the corners and spine ends and a split at the bottom of the spine where it meets the rear cover. The text block is age browned, slightly foxed and with staining to a few pages. Possibly the eighth or ninth Karta novel, seemingly preceding 'The Hot Seat's Cold'. It's a brutal tale of love, sex and violence, involving sadistic dope racketeer, Rocky Cohoe and dancer, Angel Descarti.

**£70**





12. **Karta, Nat. The Sin of Miss Bishop.** Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby, rubbed and creased, with small chips and short closed tears to the edges as well as the lower outer corner of the rear cover being torn off. The text block is age toned to varying extents depending on the paper quality, with minor stains and light foxing, there are some creased pages, also some with small amounts of loss and closed tears to their bottom edges where they have been roughly cut, the lower outside corner of the last page has been torn off, corresponding with the loss to the outer cover though to a lesser extent. Seemingly preceding 'Once Bitten Twice Bitten'. Bored, wealthy Nina Bishop gets involved with Lugo Bastell, whose "life was a welter of booze, guns and dames...", it ends very badly, indeed horrifically, for both of them.

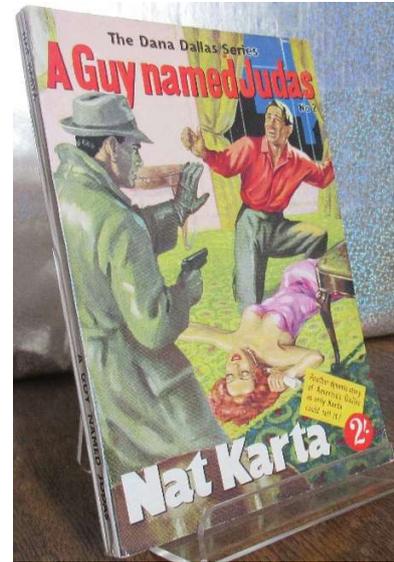
£30

13. **Karta, Nat. A Guy Named Judas.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1952.

128 pages. Undated, but No 2 in the "Dana Dallas Series", and possibly the last Nat Karta title to be published by Muir-Watson, before the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion in 1952. The rear cover mentions that No. 3 in the series will be "We, The Condemned", which was published by Scion in 1953. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are lightly rubbed and creased with some minor marks and a few small nicks to the edges. The text block is slightly toned with some minor foxing. Seemingly a prequel to 'The Hot Rod', in which Dallas is a private detective, telling of an earlier episode in his life among New York's low-life, a world of cheap hustlers and fast but classy dames. This copy is remarkably well preserved.

£160



14. **Karta, Nat. The Hot Rod.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1952.

128 pages. Undated, but No 1 in the "Dana Dallas Series", and possibly the penultimate Nat Karta title to be published by Muir-Watson, before the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion in 1952. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and creased with a few minor nicks and short closed tears to the edges. The text block is slightly toned and foxed. In this outing Dana Dallas is a private detective, formerly a cop from the age of 19, with a stint in the U.S. Army as an Intelligence Officer. I assume that the writers had heard of the term hot rod but hadn't a clue what it meant, so in this it's just the name of a gangster, Hot Rod, whose only friend is called Nuts, who we're told "came up the hard way". There's a dame called Karin Jester, she's "had a surfeit of wolves", and at this point I had to stop reading as it all became a bit too much. A rare and particularly well preserved Karta title.

£160



15. **Karta, Nat. The Reluctant Virgin.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1952.

112 pages. Undated, but mentioning 'Hot Rod', No 1 in the "Dana Dallas Series", as the next Karta novel to be published, which would make it possibly the third from last Karta title to be published by Muir-Watson, before the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion in 1952. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are lightly rubbed and grubby, with minor creasing and a short closed tear to the rear cover. The text block is age toned to the rear and browned to the front section, being made up of varying quality stock, it is slightly foxed and marked. An ambitious feat of imagination from a British writer, the setting of the novel alternating between Mexico and San Francisco, with a good deal of gratuitous racism in addition to the violence and sex, as one of the main protagonists is Chinese and, predictably, in the opium racket. A remarkably well preserved example.

**£160**

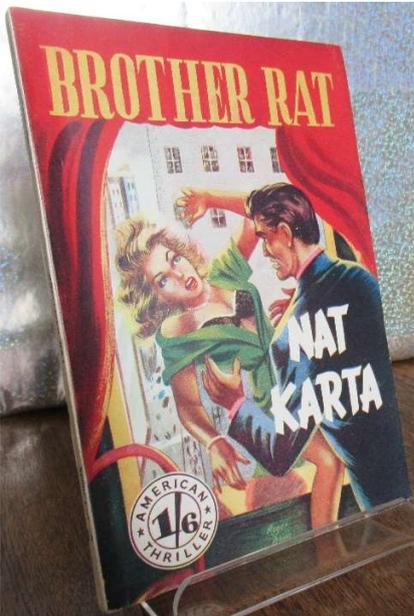


16. **Karta, Nat. Brother Rat.**

London: Scion, 1952.

112 pages. The book is staple bound in the original Roger Davis illustrated wraps, which are lightly rubbed and marked, the spine is slightly creased with minor paper loss at the tips. The text block is slightly marked and age toned with a Londonderry bookseller's stamp to both the copyright and last pages. The blurb to the inside front cover indicates that this is the first Karta novel to be published following the transition from the Muir-Watson to the Scion imprint. It's a taut, brutal, unusually, but still only relatively, sexually explicit gangster pulp, of the variety that lead to the obscenity trials that would bring such publications in Britain to an end within two years. T. J. Carty's 'Dictionary of Literary Pseudonyms' suggests that the author behind the Karta house name in this instance might be Victor G. C. Norwood. It's a particularly rare title with no copies recorded in libraries and a remarkably well preserved example.

**£160**

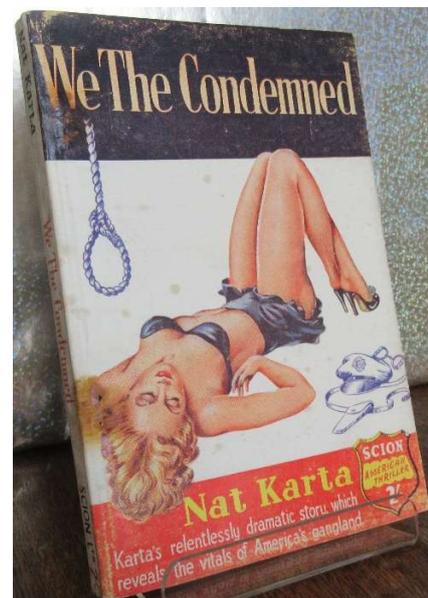


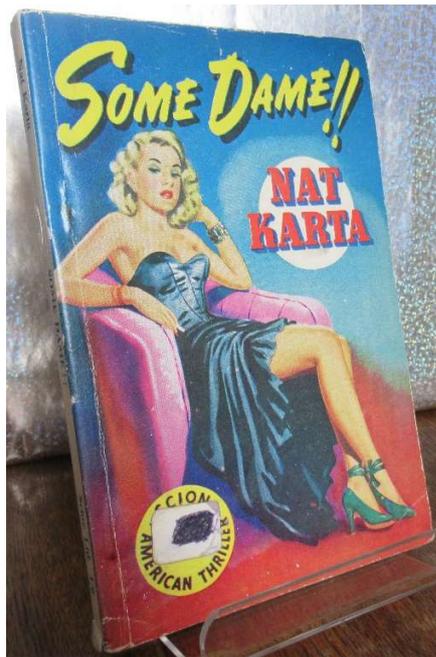
17. **Karta, Nat. We The Condemned.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are somewhat rubbed, marked and spotted, with rusting around the staples and some minor nicks to the spine ends. The text block is slightly toned and foxed with minor marks. The third title to feature private detective, Dana Dallas, the previous Dallas novel was the final Nat Karta title published under the Muir-Watson imprint, but this sequel does not seem to have followed directly when Scion bought the rights, although it was advertised on the rear cover of 'A Guy Named Judas'. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress indicates that the authors behind the Karta house name in this instance were: Norman A. Lazenby and Herbert Victor Lowe.

**£130**





18. **Karta, Nat. Some Dame!.**

London: Scion LTD, 1953.

127 pages plus a page advertising the next Karta novel ('Climax!'). The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and marked, with some minor paper loss and short closed tears at the spine ends, there is a re-pricing label to the front panel which has had the price scribbled out. The text block is slightly toned and marked with a U.S. bookseller's stamp to the copyright page. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the Nat Karta house name in this instance as: Dail Ambler and Herbert Victor Lowes, Dail Ambler being the pseudonym of Betty Williams. A novel featuring Karta as both private detective and narrator, the "dame" of the title being Doria, who wants Karta to clean up her ex-partner's (who she murders in front of Karta) murder mob, but there's a savage twist in the tale.

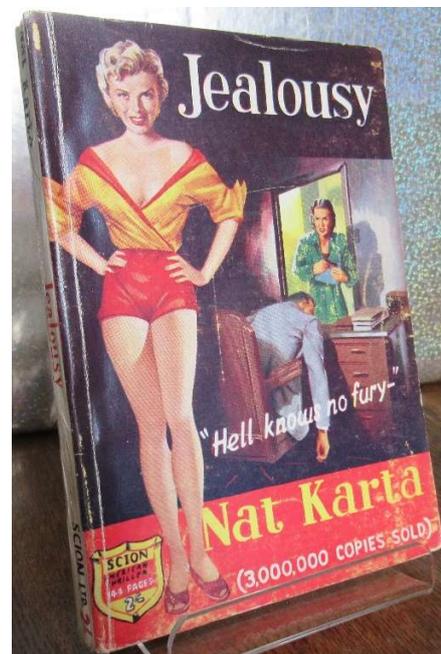
**£120**

19. **Karta, Nat. Jealousy.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite rubbed and slightly marked, the spine is slightly creased with minor paper loss at the tips. The text block is age browned and slightly marked with short closed tears to a few page edges. A hard-boiled crime pulp featuring Karta as narrator and private detective, the narration bouncing along in a staccato rhythm, short sentences, anything over five words a luxury and little use of commas, I struggled to get much sense of the plot from a skim read, but the rhythm carries you along. Quite a rare later Karta novel, and surprisingly well preserved.

**£110**



20. **Karta, Nat. Pay-Off.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and marked with a few minor chips to the edges. The text block is age toned and a little foxed and marked. A relatively tame outing for Nat Karta, who features as the private detective investigating a series of murders.

**£55**

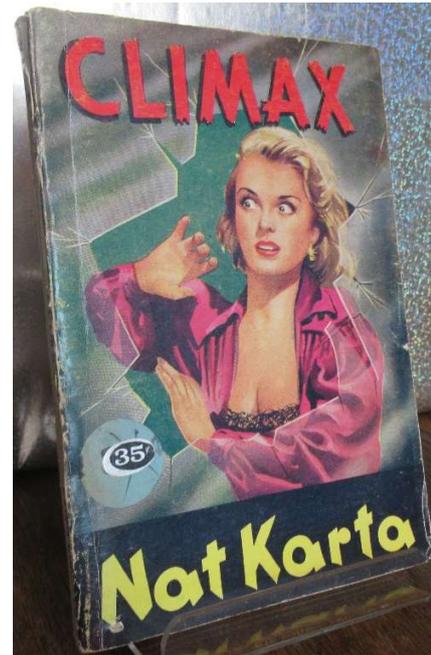


21. **Karta, Nat. Climax.**

London: Scion, Limited, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby and rubbed, with a creased spine that has minor loss at the tips and a rear cover that has had its upper left corner torn off, there is a U.S. re-pricing sticker to the front cover. The text block is age browned and slightly stained with rubbed corners and a U.S. bookseller's stamp to the copyright page. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the Nat Karta house name in this instance as: Victor Norwood and Herbert Victor Lowe. Hard-boiled detective fiction, with private detective, Wade Bennett in Los Angeles, combatting tricky dames and treacherous hop-heads in his pursuit of some missing diamonds.

£40

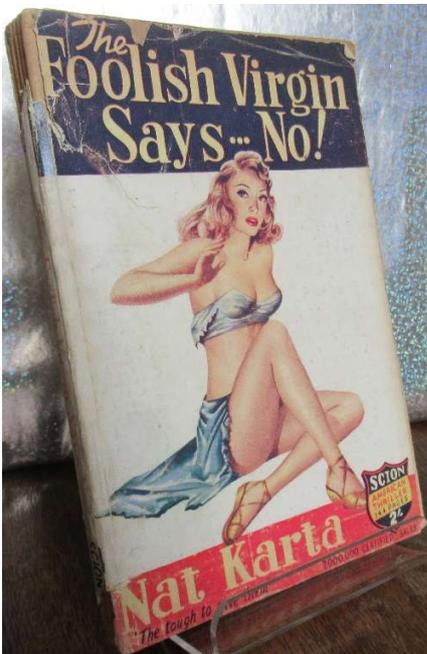


22. **Karta, Nat. The Foolish Virgin Says No.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite rubbed and grubby with chipping and closed tears to the edges, the spine is faded with quite significant loss at both ends, the covers are in danger of parting company with the text block. The text block is slightly age toned, foxed and marked with slightly rubbed and chipped corners. Hard-boiled crime pulp fiction, with Karta featuring as both private detective and narrator, making film references comparing himself to Humphrey Bogart and generally assuring the reader of his tough, all-American credentials.

£35

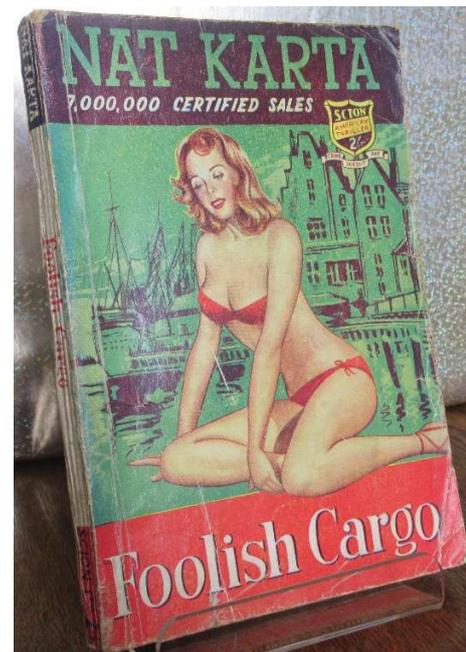


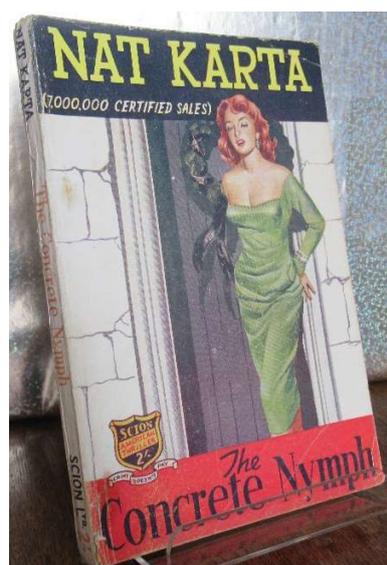
23. **Karta, Nat. The Foolish Cargo.**

London: Scion Limited, 1954.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite rubbed, toned, grubby and creased, with minor chips and short closed tears to the edges and the spine tips. The text block is age browned, slightly foxed and marked with short closed tears to a few page edges. One of the later Karta novels, with the sex and violence toned down in an attempt to avoid prosecution under the obscenity laws, and the conceit being that the private detective and first person narrator of the novel is Nat Karta himself, attempting to locate the daughter of a nut king.

£40





24. **Karta, Nat. The Concrete Nymph.**

London: Scion Limited, 1954.

143 pages, the last with an ad to the rear. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite rubbed and marked, with creasing and fading to the spine, also minor paper loss at the spine tips and a few short closed tears. The text block is age toned and slightly foxed, with rust marks around the heavily corroded staples. One of the later Nat Karta crime pulps, in which Karta himself appears as both narrator and private detective.

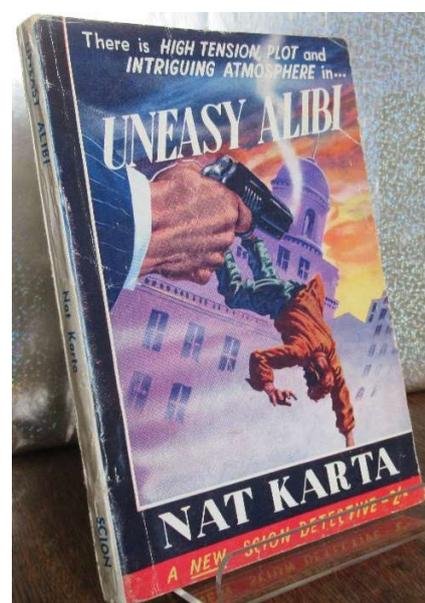
£50

25. **Karta, Nat. Uneasy Alibi.**

London: Scion Distributors, Ltd, 1954.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed, grubby and creased, with minor nicks and a few short closed tears to the edges. The text block is toned with some grubby marks, a few dog-eared corners and some pages with small nicks and closed tears to the edges. A fairly standard novel of crime and detection, lacking the dope, gratuitous violence and sex of the earlier Karta novels, this tamer atmosphere reflected by the cover art and title. Possibly because sales were down by 1954, meaning fewer were produced, and because it lacks the visual appeal that helped at least a small number of the earlier titles to avoid their natural fate of being returned to a pulp state, or being otherwise discarded, it seems to be particularly rare with no obvious library holdings.

£120

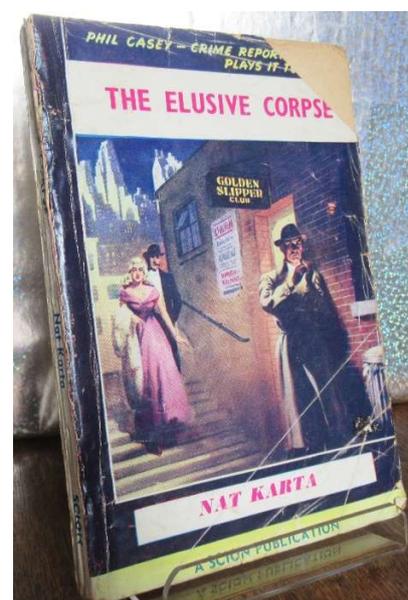


26. **Karta, Nat. The Elusive Corpse.**

London: Scion Distributors Ltd., 1954.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are rubbed, creased and grubby, with the top front right corner snipped off and other minor chips and a few closed tears to the edges, the spine is creased with minor loss at the tips. The text block is age browned, slightly foxed and stained, with creased and softened corners, the title page has also had its corner snipped off corresponding with the front cover and there is a bookseller's stamp to the inside of the cover. "A big ship, even the biggest ship, is a lonely looking thing sliding away from the land on a dark night. Lights blaze and noises throb, but just the same it's lonely, like a heart is lonely pounding away in the warm dark of a body – a thing of itself, cut off from the mercy of growing grass and friendly trees." More a detective mystery than a crime thriller, set aboard the S. S. Wildfire, travelling from New York to Cherbourg.

£35

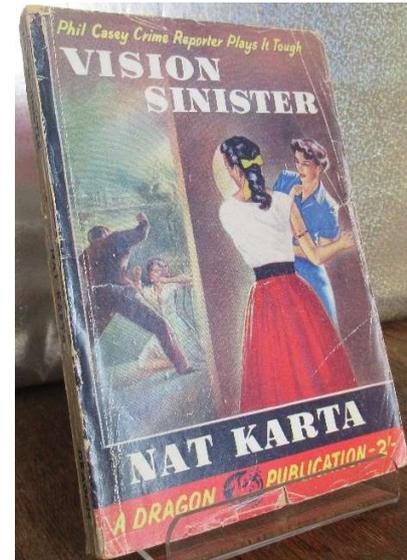


27. **Karta, Nat (Pseud. John Russell Fearn and Victor Norwood). Vision Sinister.**

London: Scion Distributors, Limited (Dragon imprint), 1954.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby, creased and rubbed with some minor chipping and short closed tears to the edges, there is also slightly more significant paper loss at the top of the spine. The text block is age browned and slightly marked, with rubbed corners and minor nicks and chips to a few pages. Seemingly the last novel published under the Nat Karta house name, not the most uncommon, but ironically the most famous as it was the work of John Russell Fearn. Erroneously mentioning the previous Karta character in the strap-line to the front cover: "Phil Casey Crime Reporter Plays It Tough", it is actually an impossible locked room mystery, featuring Fearn's detectives, Dr. Hiram Carruthers and Chief Inspector Mortimer Garth investigating a murder observed in a locked room which upon opening completely vanishes.

£100



28. **Vogel, Hans. The Bad Woman.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite heavily creased and rubbed, with the corner snipped off the lower rear cover and other minor chips and short closed tears to the edges, the spine is creased and slightly toned with minor loss at the ends. The text block is age browned and slightly foxed, with minor marks, nicks to page edges and dog-eared corners, there are longer closed tears running half the length of pages 69/70 and 101/102. The first or second crime pulp to be published under this pseudonym. A fictitious biography to the rear of the book describes Vogel as: "a great bull of a man [who] has had a career that few without his sheer toughness could survive [and] who once worked intimately with those involved in the rackets", thus establishing his impeccable American low-life credentials. In this instance the user of the Vogel house name was apparently Norman Lazenby, based in north-east England.

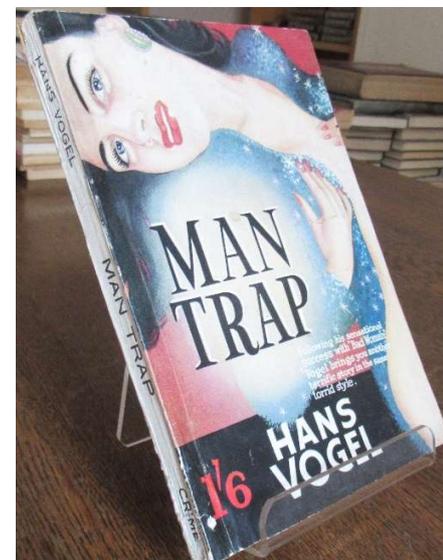
£70

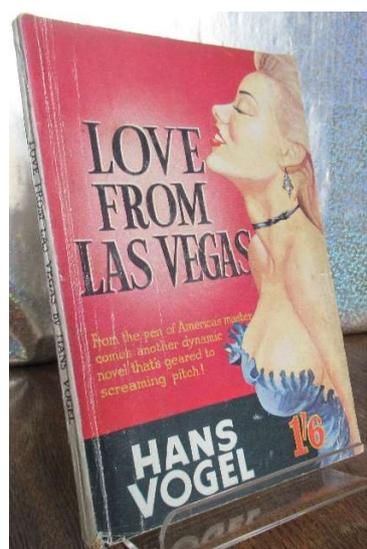
29. **Vogel, Hans. Man Trap.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are a little rubbed and marked with creasing to the spine and a few minor nicks and small chips to the edges. The text block is age toned with minor marks, also slight creasing and a few small nicks to page edges. A beautiful young woman named Paulette Rey takes revenge against the mob who killed her sister, seducing and murdering as necessary as she goes in brutal fashion. A remarkably well preserved example of this uncommon British crime pulp novel.

£160





30. **Vogel, Hans. Love From Las Vegas.** Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

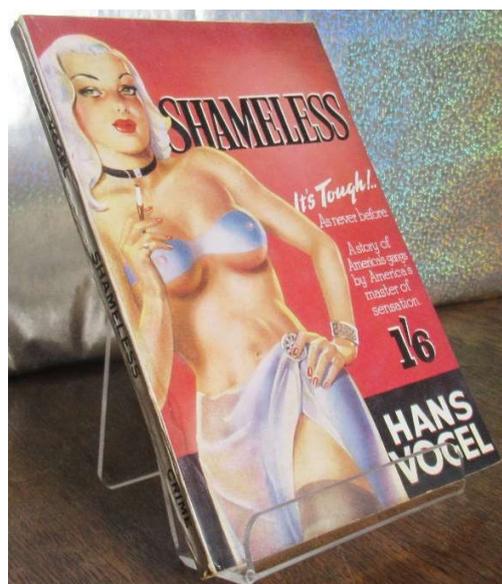
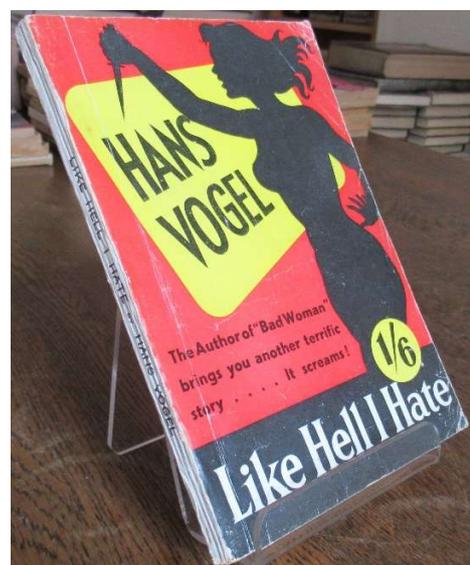
128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are somewhat creased, grubby and rubbed, with a small amount of paper loss at the spine ends and a few short closed tears to the edges. The text block is age browned with staining to some pages and a small chunk missing from the edge of page 17/18, slightly affecting the text. Seemingly the fourth Vogel novel to be published. The plot following the adventures of New York engineer, Johnny Reagan who abandons his wife, family and business because of “complexes” (and the primness), and runs away to Las Vegas where he immediately becomes involved with “striking kid”, Lana Weiss, a former juvenile delinquent, who gives him all the excitement he can handle...

£85

31. **Vogel, Hans. Like Hell I Hate.** Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed, creased and marked, with a few minor chips and short closed tears to the edges. The text block is age browned, slightly marked and dusty, with some dog-eared corners and a few minor nicks to page edges. An uncommon British crime pulp cataloguing the mis-adventures of Venita Romana (“She was slim, but her curves were ample and all in the right places. She was the kind of kitten who always found a wolf at her door – and, maybe two or three more trying to get in up the fire escape.”) with some improbably named (“Skudo” & “Nitro Smith”) American gangsters.

£120



32. **Vogel, Hans. Shameless.** Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and grubby, the spine is creased with minor paper loss at the tips. The text block is age browned to varying degrees depending on the paper quality, and slightly foxed with some minor marks. Possibly the fifth Vogel novel, preceding ‘At Night I live’. The story begins intriguingly with a man who has been in a psychiatric hospital for 7 months following a car crash which has left him with complete amnesia, all the doctors can tell him is that his initials are E. M. and that some of his clothes have Los Angeles labels. So he heads to the city to re-discover his life, only to enter a nightmare world in which he is tough Eddie Milo, hired gunman for the mob, “a lousy rat that could do any dirty job!”. It is seemingly the work of Norman Lazenby, who is quoted in ‘The Mushroom Jungle’ (1993): “I note that I wrote ‘Shameless’

and ‘Passion’s Not for Noon’ in nine days – two 45,000 word stories. So if they read lousy, you’ll know why.”. Lousy in content it may be, but it remains a well preserved example of a particularly rare title.

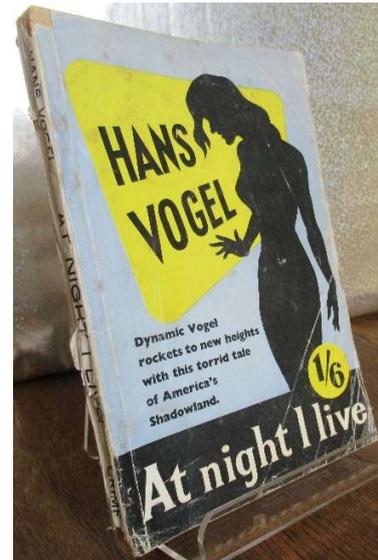
£150

33. **Vogel, Hans. At Night I live.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are grubby, foxed, rubbed and creased, with paper loss at the spine ends and corners, as well as a few closed tears to the edges. The text block is age browned and slightly foxed. A slightly thin Los Angeles set story, following fresh out of jail, revenge bent, Joe Kane on a trail of sex and destruction across the city, with a lazy happy ending of sorts. You get the distinct impression that the writer's heart was not in this one and they were struggling to make the word count, by the fact that almost all the characters are identified by both names the majority of the time and as often as possible, with pronouns quite a rarity: "Ed Tribe thought he had a chance to get away. Joe Kane had his attention on the undersized Palooka. Ed Tribe slashed desperately with his feet. Hard shoes caught Joe Kane's shins." and so on... Possibly the sixth Vogel novel, preceded by 'Shameless' and prior to 'Main Drag'.

£35



34. **Vogel, Hans. Main Drag.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are somewhat marked, rubbed and creased, with a small amount of paper loss to the bottom of the spine and other more minor nicks and short closed tears to the edges. The text block is age browned, slightly foxed and stained with rubbed corners and a few short tears to some page edges. A Daytona set story of lust, violence, romance and redemption through suffering, quite good characterisation, slick dialogue and varied and detailed descriptive passages: "Mel Kramer had said for him to meet up outside the Krueger Wrestling Stadium. [...] Some grapplers were mixing it on the mat that night, Ed knew. He didn't go for wrestling much, but he always had a guy attending the match. New customers and old ones could be picked up and a few ounces of dope peddled in a night was good business at two dollars a pellet.". Possibly the seventh Vogel novel, preceded by 'At Night I live'.

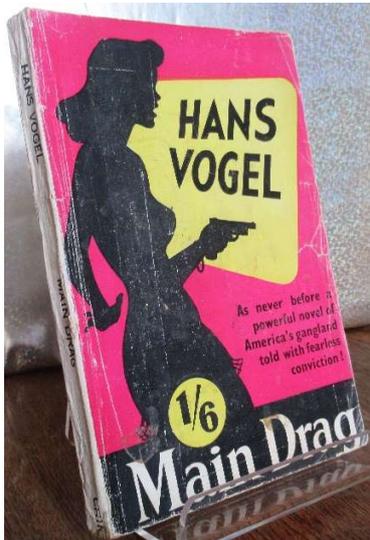
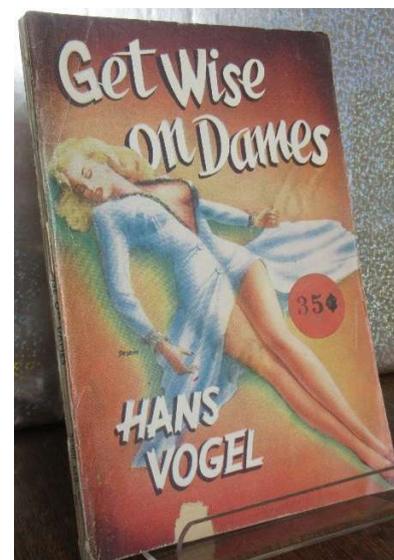
£75

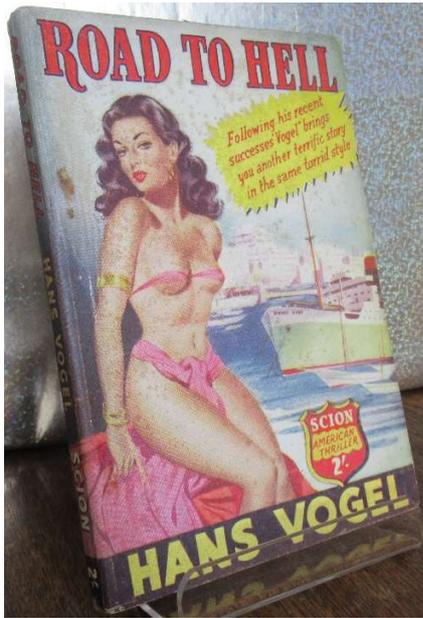
35. **Vogel, Hans. Get Wise on Dames.**

London: Scion, 1952.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite marked, creased and rubbed, with some small areas of loss and short closed tears to the edges, as well as a U.S. re-pricing sticker to the front panel. The text block is age browned to varying extents depending on the paper quality, with a small date stamp to the title page which has been corrected or altered in blue ink. Seemingly the first Vogel novel to be published under the Scion imprint following the transition from Muir-Watson, featuring Hans Vogel as both private detective and narrator. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress indicates that the author behind the house name in this instance was Albert Edgar Garrett, whose output of gangster crime pulps was substantial.

£110





36. **Vogel, Hans. Road to Hell.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby and spotted, with some minor creasing, a few short closed tears and a small amount of paper loss at the spine ends. The text block is age toned, slightly foxed and musty, with short closed tears to a few page edges. An interesting tale of a gangster's life, told in the first person, unusually including a stint in prison in the middle of the narrative, involving plenty of dames and reefer smoke, and ending appropriately in a hail of tommy gun bullets. One of the earlier crime pulps to be published under the Vogel name following the move from the Muir-Watson to the Scion imprint, still in the earlier house's 128 page format. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the house name in this instance as: Donald Cresswell and Herbert Victor Lowe.

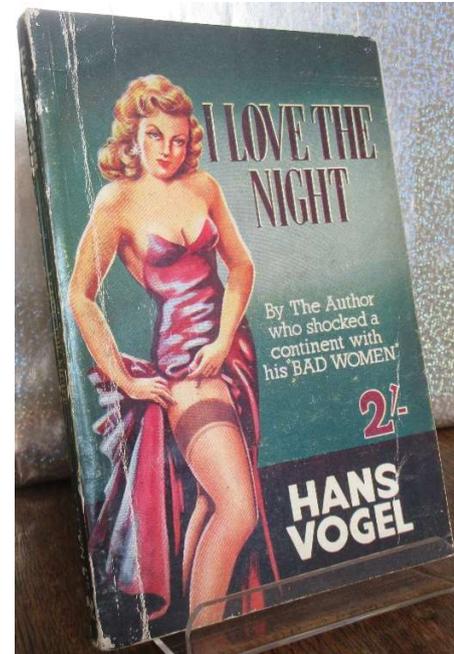
£130

37. **Vogel, Hans. I Love the Night.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby, rubbed and creased with minor paper loss at the spine tips. The text block is age browned and slightly foxed, with minor damage to a few page edges where they have been roughly cut. One of the later Vogel crime pulps, featuring Vogel as both private detective and narrator, with considerably more racist language than the average British written American gangster pulp and odd mentions of the I.R.A. and the Irish rebellion. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the house name in this instance as: James V. Nolan and Herbert Victor Lowe.

£120

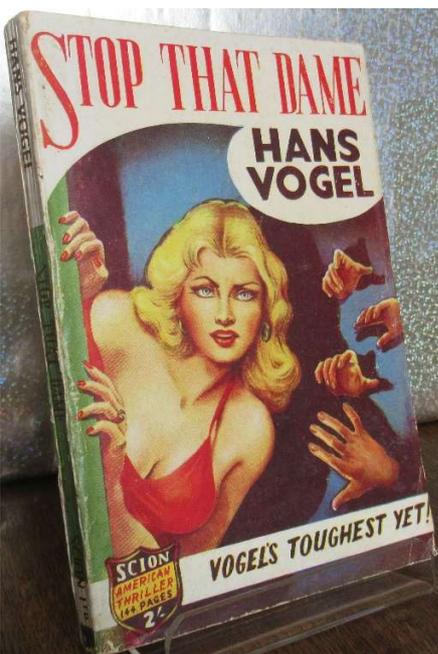


38. **Vogel, Hans. Stop That Dame.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

143 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby and rubbed with creasing to the spine and some minor paper loss at the spine tips. The text block is browned and slightly foxed with rust marks around the heavily corroded staples and some dog-eared corners. A crime pulp in which the protagonist is a local journalist who becomes embroiled in a world of crime after finding a young woman he was supposed to interview murdered.

£100

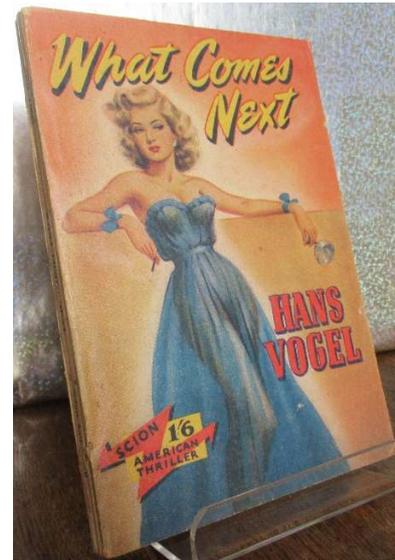


39. **Vogel, Hans. What Comes Next?**

London: Scion, Ltd, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite toned, rubbed and marked, with minor chips and short closed tears to the edges as well as creasing to the spine. The text block is age toned and foxed with some staining and minor damage to a few page edges, as well as a U.S. bookseller's stamp indicating that this book made it all the way to New York and back. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the author behind the house name in this instance as: Herbert Victor Lowe, though it also names the definitely fictional protagonist of another pulp novel, Scud Keddell as a co-writer. This is a first person narrative of a private detective, who it gradually becomes clear is Vogel himself, involved in a violent case with many chaotic dames.

**£100**



40. **Vogel, Hans. Jittery Dame.** London: Scion Limited, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, with the artwork credited to Roger Davis, the covers are quite rubbed and somewhat grubby with the staples having corroded so much that the rust has burned holes in the rear cover, the spine is slightly creased and there are a few nicks and chips of paper loss to the edges, there is a U.S. re-pricing label to the front panel. The text block is age toned and, aside from the rust burns, slightly marked, there is an American bookseller's stamp to the copyright page. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the Vogel house name in this instance as: Dail Ambler and Herbert Victor Lowes, Dail Ambler being the pseudonym of Betty Williams. A crime pulp that tells the sorry tale of Bram Casson, one of mob boss, Toni Vanzetti's "boys", who falls for one of his boss's dames and pays the price, ending up on the run from both cops and gangsters.

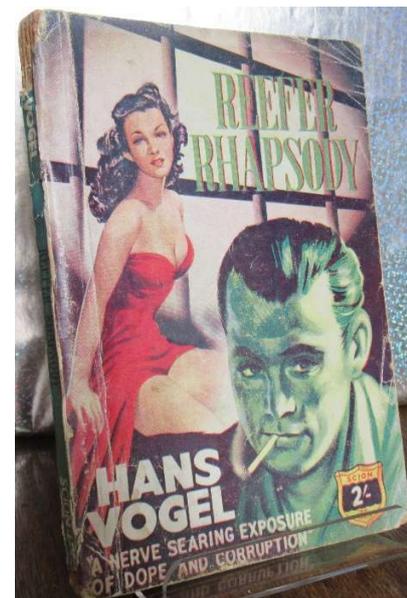
**£70**

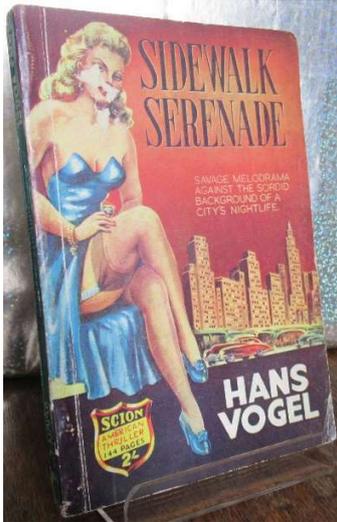
41. **Vogel, Hans. Reefer Rhapsody.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are rubbed, grubby and creased, with loss at the spine ends and a number of chips and tears. The text block is age toned and slightly foxed, with corners variously chipped, softened or dog-eared. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the Vogel house name in this instance as: Norman Lazenby and Herbert Victor Lowe. "That blubbery revulsion went to an all-night dance and got himself hopped up on marihuana cigarettes. Mark you, it was the first time he ever tried them. When he got home his pop began to read the riot act. The hemp had got the kid up to the stage where he thought he was omnipotent. He got hold of the chopper and murdered his pop and ma. After that he killed his young brother and sister by way of good measure. When we went along the place looked like a blood bath. The hell is that the kid doesn't realise he's done it. When the hop wears off he'll have forgotten all about it!" A British attempt to cash in on the reefer madness market, set in San Francisco, taking the sensationalism to impressive extremes, and even emulating the nightmarish green tinged cover artwork of its transatlantic counterparts.

**£130**





42. **Vogel, Hans. Sidewalk Serenade.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed, grubby and creased, more so to the spine which has paper loss at the tips. The text block is age toned and slightly foxed with curling and softened corners. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the Vogel house name in this instance as: F. Dubres Fawcett and Herbert Victor Lowe. A British pulp crime novel set in the New York world of corrupt cops and following the tragic career of juvenile delinquent, Candy.

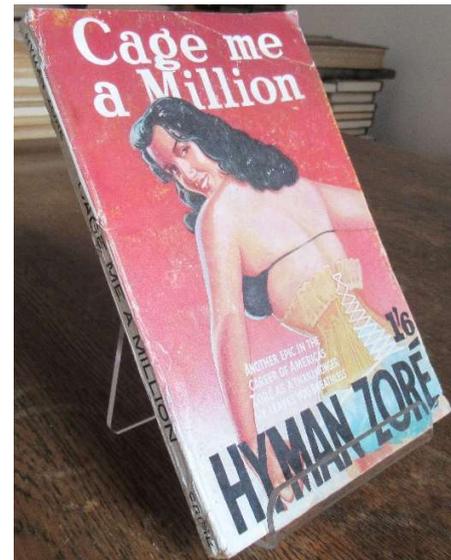
£60

43. **Zoré, Hyman. Cage Me a Million.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

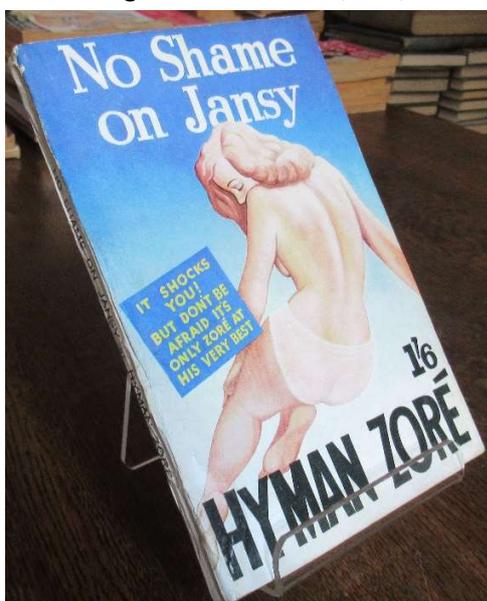
128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, the covers are creased, rubbed and stained, the spine is creased and there are small chips and a few short closed tears to the edges. The text block is age browned and lightly foxed, with minor nicks to some page edges, a few dog-eared corners and some grubby marks. A gritty, would-be authentic tale of American gangland, following the improbable adventures of Tamasha a slim dancer whose eyes were: "the clear green of a jungle animal seen in firelight", and who we are informed on page 1: "had no morals [and] had betrayed her country", as she becomes rapidly embroiled in a life of high stakes sex and crime. A rare pulp production.

£120



44. **Zoré, Hyman. No Shame on Jansy.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.



128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and grubby with creasing to and around the spine, which has minor scraps of paper loss at the tips. The text block is age toned and lightly marked. A crime pulp filled with the usual mixture of lust, greed and violence, but laced with an unusual vein of ironic romance. The opening paragraphs inform the reader that: "Jansy hated chickens. Twenty years of her life had been spent tending the feathered morons, and she reckoned that was just about twenty years too long.", Jansy uses her body and brains to escape the hated fowls, and there's a hint of a happily ever after at the end of the novel once the bloodshed is over, but the price of the happiness is: "hundreds – thousands of chickens." A rarity and in a remarkably well-preserved state.

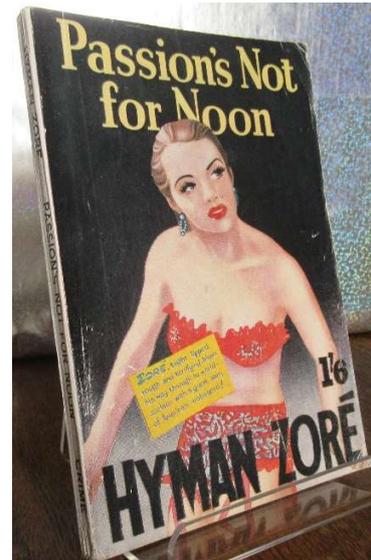
£160

45. **Zoré, Hyman. Passion's Not for Noon.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and creased with some minor marks and a few nicks to the edges. The text block is slightly toned and foxed with some minor marks and a few dog-eared corners. There's a woman named Tanya Morrell who "was neither all bad nor all good.", Greg Sullivan, just out of the state pen, wants her back but first he'll have to rub out Frog Penneo and take over his dope racket, but maybe it isn't Frog who has the appointment with death. Possibly the sixth Zoré title based upon those listed to the rear of the book, just preceding 'Mind My Innocence'. Seemingly the work of Norman Lazenby, who is quoted in 'The Mushroom Jungle' (1993): "I note that I wrote 'Shameless' and 'Passion's Not for Noon' in nine days – two 45,000 word stories. So if they read lousy, you'll know why."

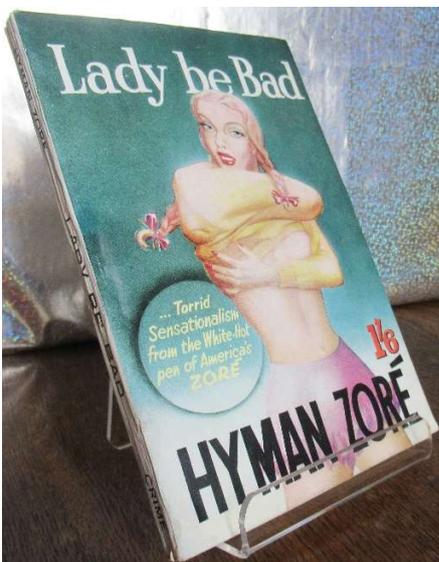
£160



46. **Zoré, Hyman. Lady be Bad.** Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1950.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are lightly rubbed and marked, the spine is slightly creased with some minor paper loss at the spine tips. The text block is browned to varying extents depending upon the paper quality, with some foxing and minor marks. Seemingly the third Zoré novel, preceding 'No Shame on Jansy'. A small town girl comes to Chicago and quickly finds trouble, becoming heavily involved in mob life and nearly ending up in one of the city's "cathouses". A rarity and in surprisingly good condition.

£160

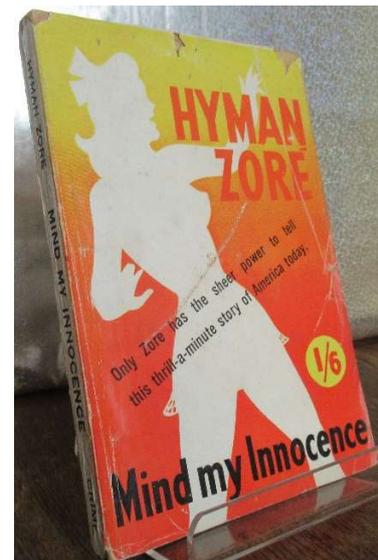


47. **Zoré, Hyman. Mind My Innocence.**

Glasgow: Muir-Watson, Ltd., 1951.

128 pages. Undated, but certainly prior to 1952 when the pressure of the obscenity trials became too much and the rights were sold to London publisher, Scion. The book is staple-bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby, rubbed and creased with scoring across the front panel, some paper loss to the edges and assorted puncture marks. The text block is age browned and slightly foxed, with much of the damage to the front panel being replicated to a steadily decreasing degree up to page 23. Rita Baron is a woman with money and men troubles, romantically involved with two brothers, one a ruthless racketeer, the other an equally ruthless private detective, she believes herself to be bad and to want to be bad, the one brother represents this life, the other is convinced of the possibility of Rita Baron's goodness, and won't give up on it. The two brothers are set on a collision course, will Rita survive the impact? Possibly the seventh Zoré novel and the penultimate one to be published under the Muir-Watson imprint.

£45

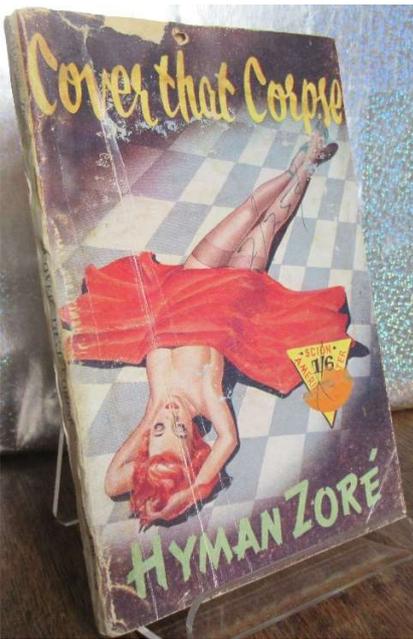


48. **Zoré, Hyman. Cover that Corpse.**

London: Scion, Ltd, 1952.

127 pages, with a "Reader's Security Form" to the rear of the final page. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are rubbed, creased and grubby with loss to the edges, chipping at the spine tips and staining to the rear cover, the old price has been obliterated and a new price written in blue ink. The text block is age browned with some grubby pages and appears to have been attacked either by a drill or an insect, with holes bored in the sides and through some of the pages, not impacting the text, there is a U.S. bookseller's stamp to the copyright page. The violent and chaotic life and death of Johnny Daniels, the tale, so a copyright entry in the Library of Congress tells us, was written by Victor John Hansen and Herbert Victor Lowe using the Zoré house name.

£30

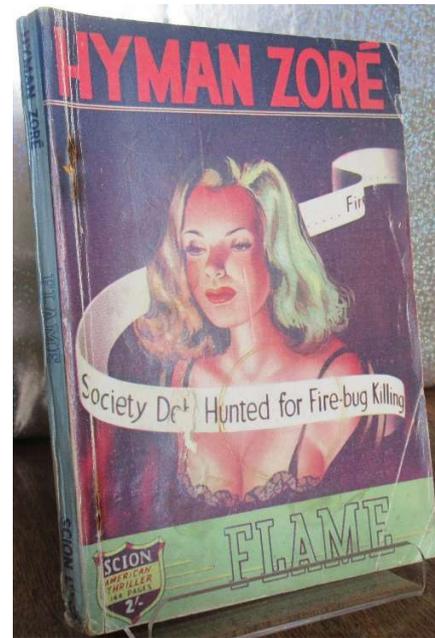


49. **Zoré, Hyman. Flame.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed, toned and creased, with stains and grubby marks, also some minor paper loss at the spine ends. The text block is age toned and slightly foxed with rust marks around the staples. Set in the obscure town of Bigglesville, a duo of private detectives investigate a dope racket, one is murdered leaving his partner to avenge the death and solve the case, the possible key to the mystery being a red head named 'Flame'.

£130

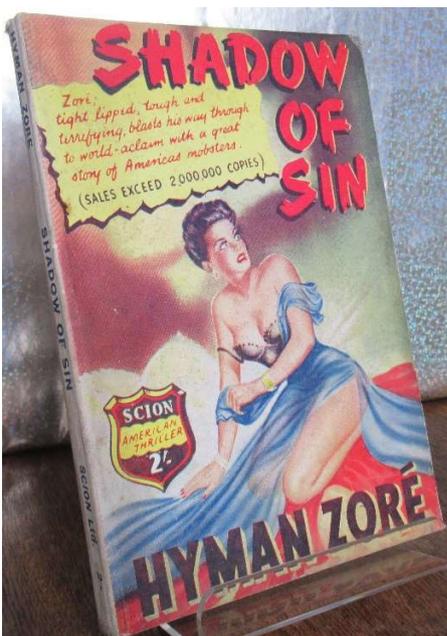


50. **Zoré, Hyman. Shadow of a Sin.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby and spotted, with minor rubbing and creasing to the corners and a little paper loss to the spine tips. The text block is age toned, slightly foxed and a little marked. A diamond heist at a pawn broker takes a wrong turn when our narrator falls for call girl, Connie Semplar who's there by chance, leading to a trail of violence, murder and ultimately the electric chair. Seemingly one of the earlier titles after Scion bought the rights from Muir-Watson in 1952, in the same 128 page format and with the sex and violence still at a gratuitous level, before attempts to comply with the obscenity laws toned them down. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress indicates that the authors behind the house name in this instance were: V. Joseph Hanson and Herbert Victor Lowe.

£120

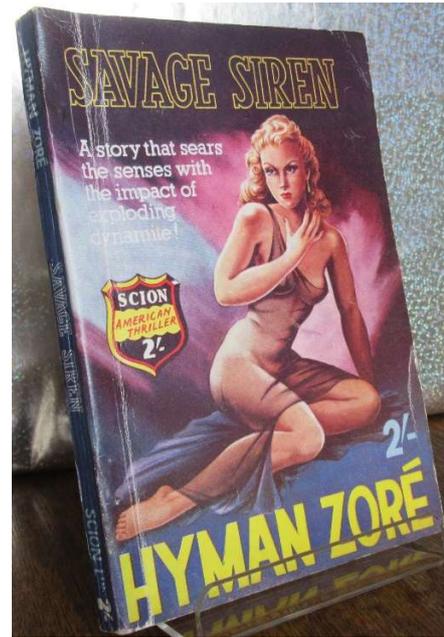


51. **Zoré, Hyman. Savage Siren.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and creased, with some marks and a few very small chips to the spine ends. The text block is age toned and slightly marked with minor nicks to a few page edges. One of the later Zoré crime pulps, in which private detective, Scud Kedell finds a pseudo-astronomer dead in an isolated building not far from the Mexican border and is launched into a corpse littered mystery, aided by the local sheriff and a love interest named Shirley. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress indicates that the author behind the house name in this instance was: Herbert Victor Lowe.

£120

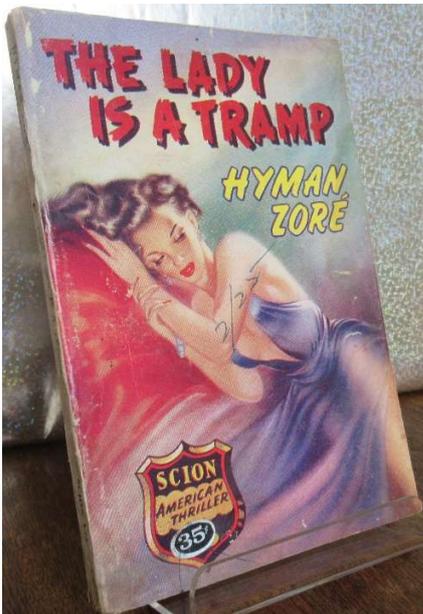


52. **Zoré, Hyman. The Lady is a Tramp.**

London: Scion, Ltd, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are stained, grubby, rubbed and spotted, with some writing in blue ink to the front panel as well as a U.S. re-pricing sticker, there is some minor paper loss at the spine ends. The text block is toned and stained, with a drill hole to the outer edge, not affecting the text, and a New York bookseller's stamp to the copyright page, claiming to be the "sole distributors in U.S.A.". A violent, but peculiarly dis-jointed Zoré crime pulp, one of the earliest such to come out under the Scion imprint after the move from Muir-Watson, using their shorter 128 page format. But even that was evidently too long as the pages are at best three quarters full with huge gaps between paragraphs wherever possible, suggesting that whoever was supposed to be using the Zoré house name that week had forgotten and knocked it out over a weekend, if not overnight, to meet a deadline. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the likely culprits as: James Amesbury and Herbert Victor Lowe.

£50

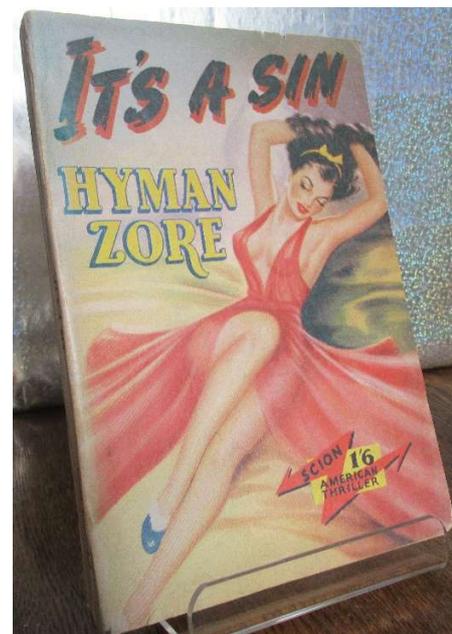


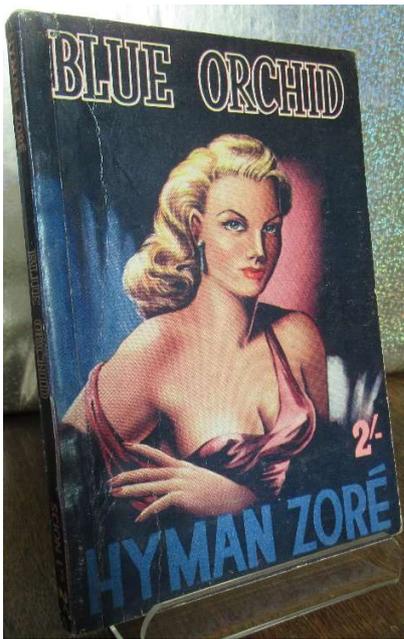
53. **Zoré, Hyman. It's a Sin.**

London: Scion, Ltd, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite toned, rubbed and stained, with creasing to the spine which has minor paper loss at the tips. The text block is age browned, slightly foxed and stained with minor loss to the lower corners. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the Zoré house name in this instance as: Bevin Winter and Herbert Victor Lowe. A relatively tame pulp crime novel, in which a journalist becomes more closely involved with a gang of bank robbers than intended.

£100





54. **Zoré, Hyman. Blue Orchid.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are slightly rubbed and marked, with a few minor chips and closed tears to the edges. The text block is slightly toned and foxed. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the Zoré house name in this instance as: Michael Barnes and Herbert Victor Lowe. A blonde lures a millionaire playboy to a crooked poker game, but things go wrong when he transpires to be a superior player and less drunk than he appeared, causing him to be brutally murdered by a mob, and that's just the start of the trouble. Quite a rarity and in surprisingly good condition.

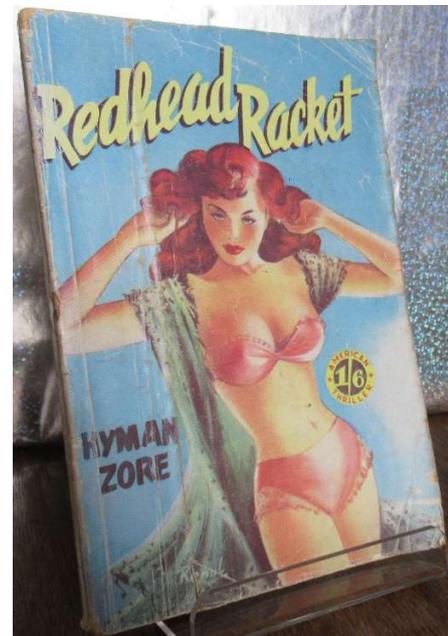
**£130**

55. **Zoré, Hyman. Redhead Racket.**

London: Scion, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original wraps with the artwork credited to the elusive 'Renul', they are quite significantly rubbed, grubby and creased, the spine distinctly concave, and there are minor chips and short closed tears to the edges. The text block is age toned, slightly marked and foxed, with the corners variously curled, dog-eared and softened. Zoré features as both private detective and narrator, in a fairly good pastiche of the American hard-boiled style, solving a riddle in the world of horse racing.

**£45**

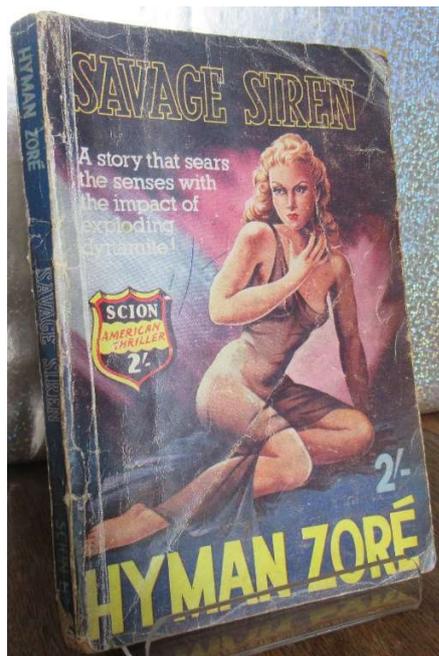


56. **Zoré, Hyman. Savage Siren.**

London: Scion Limited, 1953.

144 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are rubbed, creased, toned and grubby, with some loss at the bottom of the spine as well as other minor nicks and closed tears, the wraps are in danger of becoming detached from the block. The text block is age browned and slightly marked with curled and softened corners and some minor nicks to page edges. One of the later Zoré crime pulps, in which private detective, Scud Kedell finds a pseudo-astronomer dead in an isolated building not far from the Mexican border and is launched into a corpse littered mystery, aided by the local sheriff and a love interest named Shirley. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress indicates that the author behind the house name in this instance was: Herbert Victor Lowe.

**£35**

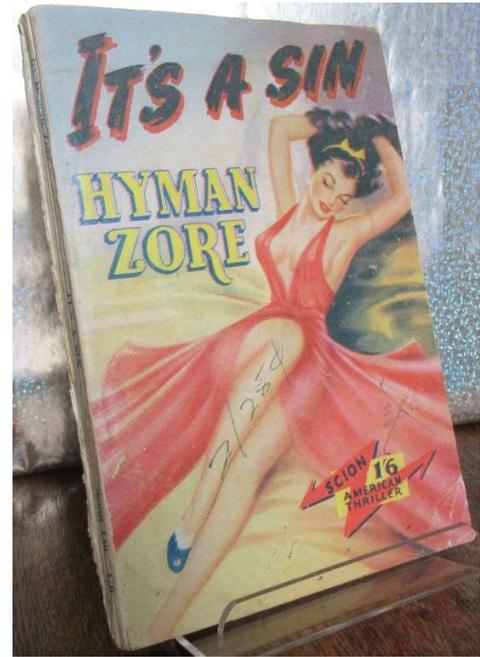


57. **Zoré, Hyman. It's a Sin.**

London: Scion, Ltd, 1953.

128 pages. The book is staple bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are age toned, rubbed and stained, with creasing to the spine which has minor paper loss at the tips, the rear cover is nearly detached and there are U.S. re-pricings in pen to the front cover. The text block is age browned, slightly foxed and stained with rubbed corners and a U.S. bookseller's stamp to the copyright page. A copyright entry in the Library of Congress confidently identifies the authors behind the Zoré house name in this instance as: Bevin Winter and Herbert Victor Lowe. A relatively tame pulp crime novel, in which a journalist becomes more closely involved with a gang of bank robbers than intended.

£35



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