

The Godmother; of Owlets and Nursing
Florence Nightingale from the library of her God daughter Ruth Florence Verney

Pocock Rare Books & Jonathan Frost Rare Books Ltd.



1. **Nightingale, Florence. Notes on Nursing - What it is and What it is Not.**

DOUBLE ASSOCIATION COPY: Emily Verney and Ruth Florence Verney.

London: Harrison, 59, Pall Mall, bookseller to the Queen, 1860.

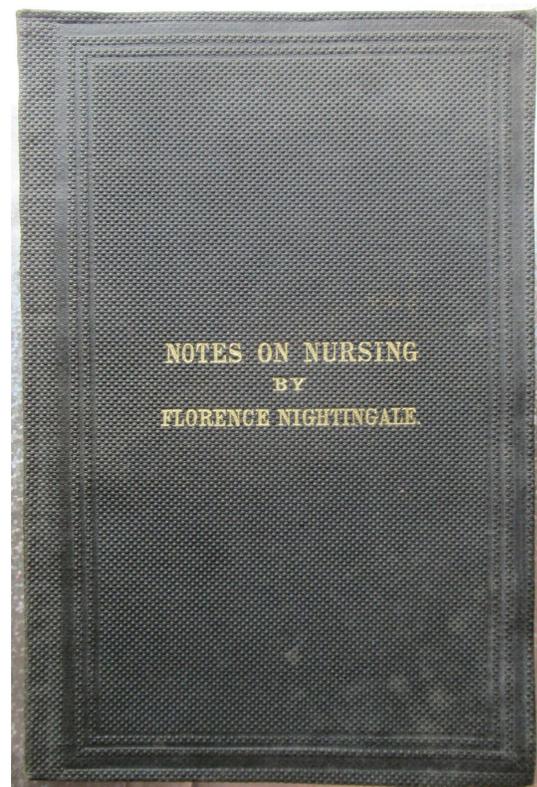
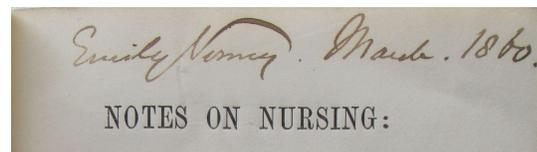
First edition, early issue, with 'The right of translation is reserved' at foot of title page. Original dark grey pebble cloth boards, title in gilt to front. With advertisements to the yellow endpapers, and the bookplate of Florence's goddaughter and grand-niece by marriage Ruth Florence Verney pasted to the front inner. Baronetage for 1860 just visible underneath. Corners slightly bumped, minor staining to boards, yet overall an exceedingly nice copy.

An extremely early issue with the ownership inscription of Emily Verney dated March 1860 to the title page. *Notes on Nursing* was first published December 1859, and by March 1860 15,000 copies had been sold; dated ownership inscription proves this to be one of the first 15,000. Note "attempting to establish with certainty any specific 'issue' of 'Notes on Nursing' beyond the first is utterly impractical." (Skretkowitz). Bishop & Goldie, p.17; Garrison & Morton 1612; Norman 1602.

Florence's niece by marriage, Emily Verney was reportedly "a beautiful girl who had loved Miss Nightingale and gone to Kaiserwerth in imitation of her; when her health had failed she was working with Octavia Hill. On September 10th Miss Nightingale wrote to Dr Balfour: "The grave has not yet closed over the mortal form of one who was almost as dear to me as my own child - one who would have done a great work for God had she lived. Emily Verney - Sir Harry Verney's only daughter, so loving, so lovely, so loved and with something heroic about her:"" (*Florence Nightingale 1820 - 1910* p.530; C. Woodham-Smith.)

Emily was born to Sir Harry Verney 2nd Bt., & Eliza Hope-Vere in 1843. After her mother's death in 1857, Sir Harry married Parthenope Nightingale in June 1858. Emily was so inspired by Aunt Florence's influence on her that she travelled to Kaiserwerth, and later worked alongside social reformer and National Trust founder Octavia Hill until her untimely death in 1872 at the age of 29.

£2,500

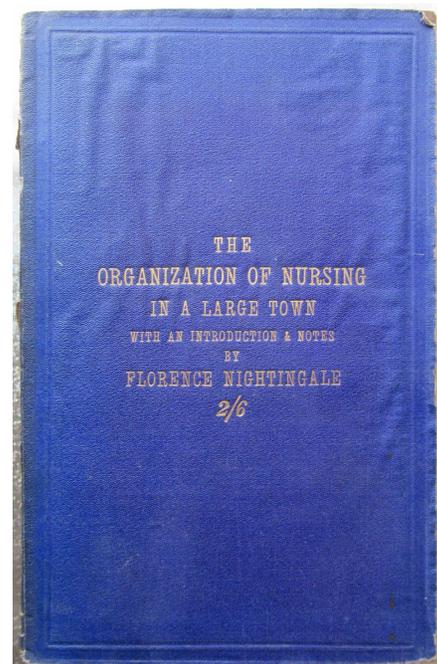
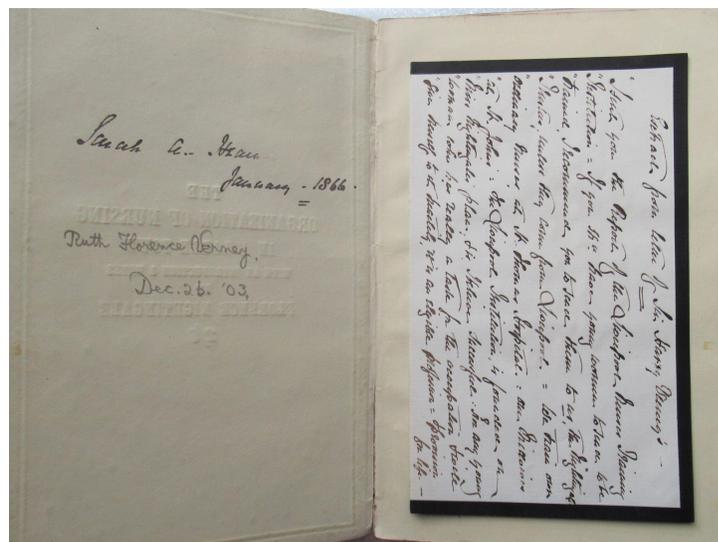


2. **Nightingale, Florence. Organization of Nursing. An Account of the Liverpool Nurses' Training School, Its Foundation, Progress, and Operation in Hospital, District, and Private Nursing. With an Introduction, and Notes By Florence Nightingale.**

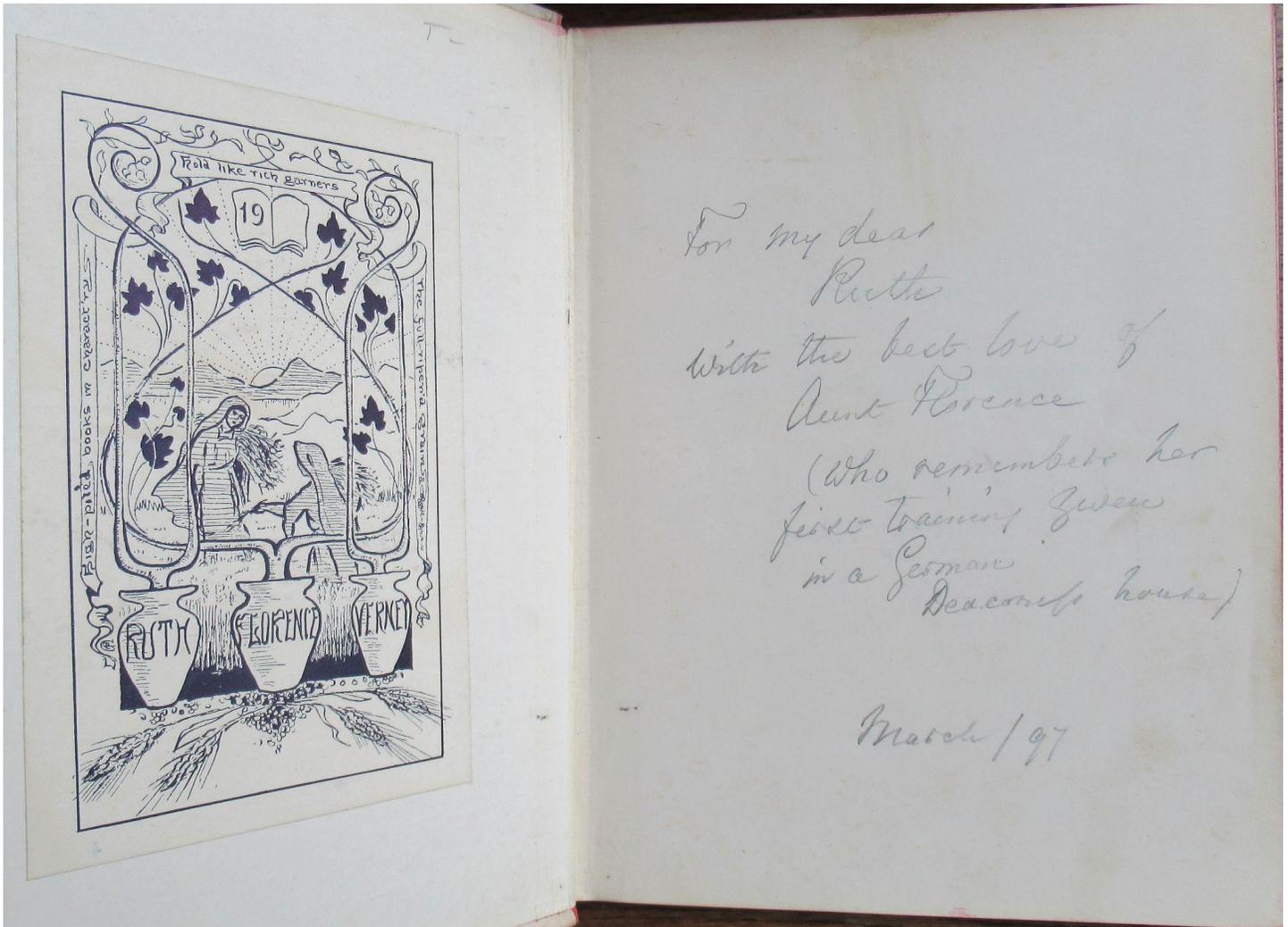
Liverpool: A. Holden, 1865.

First edition. 103 pages. With an ownership inscription to the front pastedown reading: "Ruth Florence Verney, Dec. 26. '03,". Ruth Florence Verney (1879 -1968) was Florence Nightingale's god-daughter. The Verney family being closely connected with Florence Nightingale by both her work and by the marriage of her sister, Parthenope to Sir Harry Verney. The book is bound in the publisher's limp blue cloth lettered in gilt. The front board, front endpaper, frontispiece and title page are detached, or to be exact the front board is hanging on by about 2" of brittle cloth and the pages are detached from the block, much of the spine remains but is chipped and torn, the cloth is slightly marked and rubbed, it is also peeling a little from the boards at the corners. The text block is lightly toned and marked, the first gathering is working loose, the rest are relatively firm, there is an earlier inscription to the front pastedown above Ruth's dated January 1866 and to the front endpaper is pasted a copy of an "extract from a letter of Sir Harry Verney" regarding the Liverpool Nurses' Training Institution. A fragile but interesting association copy; Florence Nightingale gave and inscribed many books to her god-daughter but I assume from the nature and date of Ruth's inscription that she hunted this book down herself.

£750



3. 4 books inscribed by Florence Nightingale to her goddaughter Ruth Florence Verney (1879-1968).

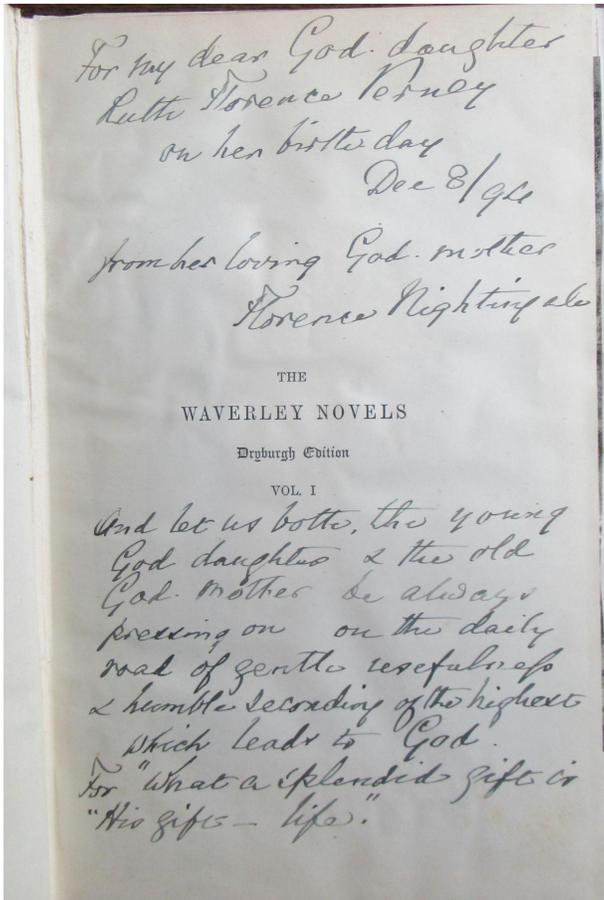


Routledge's Picture Natural History (circa 1880) inscribed to the front endpaper: "For my dear little God child Ruth from God mama aunt Florence July 1882". Anne Pratt's *Our Native Songsters* (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, circa 1890) inscribed to the verso of the front endpaper: "For my dear little god daughter Ruth with aunt Florence's very best love Claydon. October 1890". Walter Scott's *Waverley* (Adam and Charles Black, 1892) inscribed to the half-title page:

“For my dear God daughter Ruth Florence Verney on her Birthday Dec 8/94 from her loving God mother Florence Nightingale and let us both, the young God daughter & the old God mother be always pressing on on the daily road of gentle usefulness & humble [????] of the highest which leads to God. For “what a splendid gift is “His gift – life.””. Finally, Bertha Schumann’s *Was Grossmutter Erzählt* (Stuttgart, circa 1895) inscribed by Florence to the front endpaper: “For my dear Ruth with the best love of Aunt Florence (who remembers her first training given in a German Deaconess house) March /97”. The three later books all have Ruth Florence Verney’s decorative art-nouveau bookplate to their front pastedowns. In addition to the 4 books inscribed by Florence Nightingale are 3 more each with a note in Ruth’s hand indicating that they were given to her by her godmother and all 3 with her bookplate to the front endpaper, these are: Hesba Stretton’s *The Fishers of Derby Haven*, *Jesus The Carpenter of Nazareth* and E. S. Besley’s *Queen Elizabeth*. Detailed

condition descriptions of all books can be provided if necessary, but as the value lies chiefly in the Florence Nightingale inscriptions and association, it suffices to note that *Waverley*’s title page is present but detached and consequently with damage to the edges, and *Routledge’s Natural History* is in poor condition, unsurprisingly as Ruth would have been 5 months short of her third birthday when it was presented to her, with the spine strip gone and the text block completely split with a number of gatherings loose, a few worm holes not affecting the text and some light marks, careful collation reveals that it is 3 separate books individually paginated, each consisting of 248 pages, all of which are present.

Some rather important inscriptions, the latest (in *Was Grossmutter Erzählt*) is particularly interesting and shows Florence Nightingale, at an already advanced age and with failing eyesight, reflecting upon the very beginning of her nursing career 47 years earlier in 1850. Several biographies quote Florence as being quite dismissive of this incident in her life, for instance: “Later she denied that she had ‘trained’ at Kaiserswerth, saying that ‘The nursing was nil and the hygiene horrible’” (*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*). But evidently this was not a consistent opinion and certainly in her private capacity, in an affectionate inscription to her goddaughter, she was more than happy to explicitly acknowledge the experience as “her first training”.



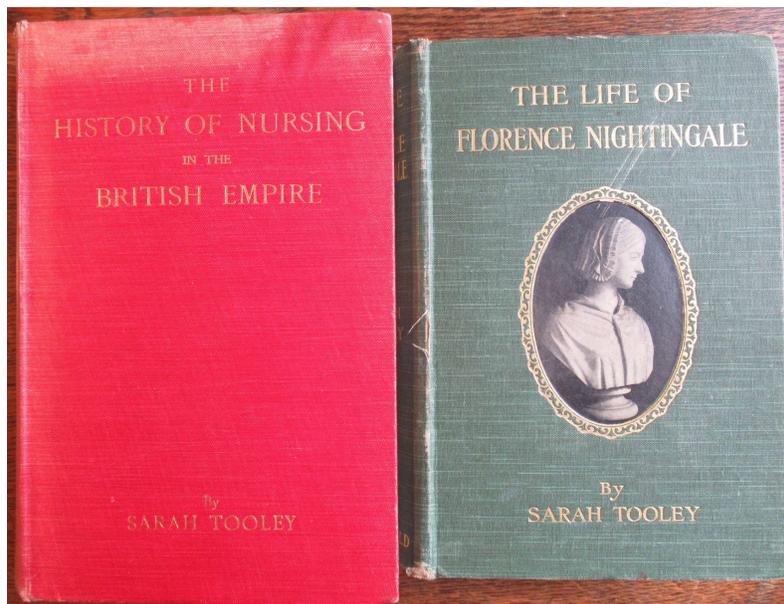
£12,000

4. **Tooley, Sarah. The Life of Florence Nightingale and The History of Nursing in the British Empire.**

London: S. H. Bousfield & Co., 1904 & 1906.

First editions. Formerly the property of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, Ruth Florence Verney, with her decorative art-nouveau bookplate to the front endpaper of each volume. Numerous newspaper cuttings and some notes in her hand, at least one of the articles regarding 'The History of Nursing' is by Ruth Verney (a note below reading "The New Age. Dec 6th 1906") and discusses the chapter on Florence Nightingale. The Life of Florence Nightingale additionally has a letter dated Nov 2. 1904 from Sarah Tooley to Sir Edmund Verney, father of Ruth and son of Sir Harry Verney, who married Florence Nightingale's sister Parthenope, thanking him for a letter that he wrote to her regarding the book. Both books are bound in the publisher's cloth lettered in gilt, with bumping to the extremities and small tears and splits to the cloth, the spine of The History of Nursing is very faded. The text blocks are slightly toned, foxed and dusty with cracking at points, both are liberally illustrated, with all plates present. Excellent association copies of titles written while Florence Nightingale was still alive, indicative even at this stage of the continued importance the Verney family would have in maintaining her legacy after her death. Both titles are uncommon as first editions.

£600



5. **Nightingale, Frances Pathenope (later Verney). Life and Death of Athena. An Owlet from the Parthenon.**

Circa 1855.

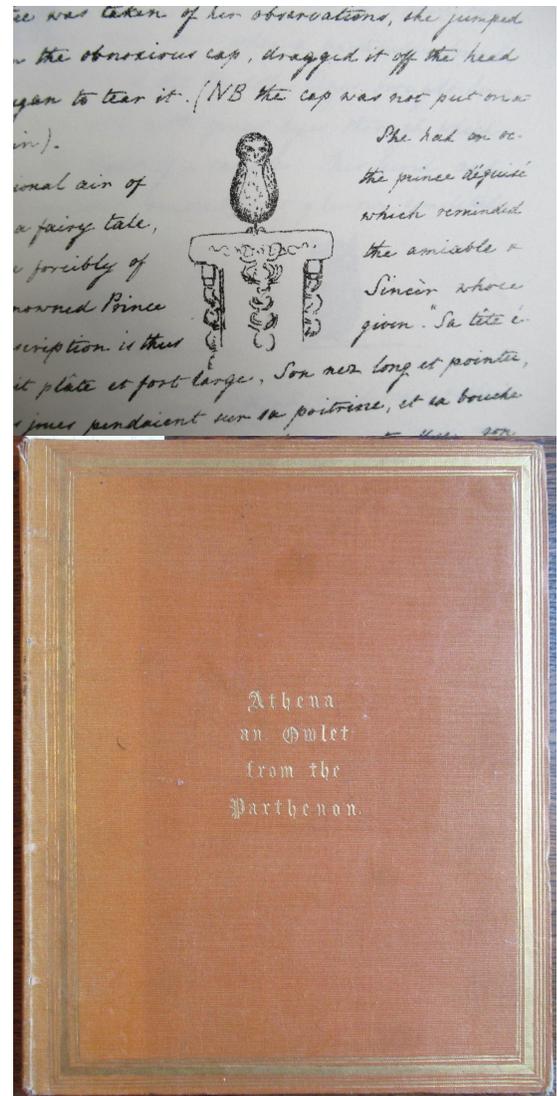
Privately printed lithographed illustrated text, and additional tipped in illustrations with pencil annotations, along with a contemporary copy of Pathenope's portrait of Florence and Athena inserted before the title, bordered and annotated in Parthenope's hand. Pages watermarked 1853, originally written and drawn as a gift for Florence by her sister Parthenope when she was ill during the Crimean War. Orange cloth with gilt stamped title and border to front, and to back along with a portrait of Athena. Bookplate of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter Ruth Florence Verney pasted to the front inner, along with her undated ownership inscription. Illustrations of Lea Hurst and Embley Park mounted at the end, titled in pencil.

Florence rescued the owl Athena during a mis-advised family visit to the Acropolis in Greece to cure her depression in 1850. Athena was being tormented by a group of boys when Florence intervened. She kept her as a pet and named the owl after the Greek goddess of wisdom. Florence had been gravely ill by the burden of her class - only reviving on the rescuing of Athena, and subsequently visiting hospitals and orphanages in Berlin; a trip she was taken on by family friends the Bracebridges on a particularly inspired whim. This was the trip that hardened her resolve, and she took the courage (and some household items to fund her way) to train at Kaiserwerth soon after.

Athena died on the eve of Florence's departure for Scutari, 1854, and she wrote "poor little beastie, it was odd how much I loved you".

Parthenope produced this title and sent it in 1855 to cheer up her sister, who had been struck with 'Crimean Fever', the first of many physical illnesses that would plague the rest of her life. The original manuscript is housed at Claydon House, Buckinghamshire.

£2,500



6. **Henslow, Fanny H. (inscribed by Florence Nightingale to her sister Parthenope). Literary Gleanings by An Invalid Second Series.**

London: Simpkin, Marshall, And Co., 1857.

First edition. Inscribed to the front endpaper: "Miss P. Nightingale with the best respects of the gleaner". With the additional later ownership inscription of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter: "Ruth Verney Claydon Bucks.". The book is intriguing on a number of levels; Fanny Henslowe included a page dedicating it to Florence Nightingale "By Permission", it was published in 1857, the year throughout much of which Florence herself was an invalid following her return from Crimea in 1856. Her sister Parthenope married Sir Harry Verney June 24th 1858 - Florence having rejected his advances - so that the inscription reading "Miss P Nightingale" places it as having been written between 1857 and June 1858. There is a column of pencil notes opposite the contents page referencing the page ("p") and quote number on that page ("n"), identifying eleven quotes from the book, possibly in Parthenope or Florence's hand, which would make sense of the final line of the inscription: "of the gleaner", Fanny's dedication indicates that she was in contact with Florence and those eleven quotes were presumably suggested for inclusion by her.

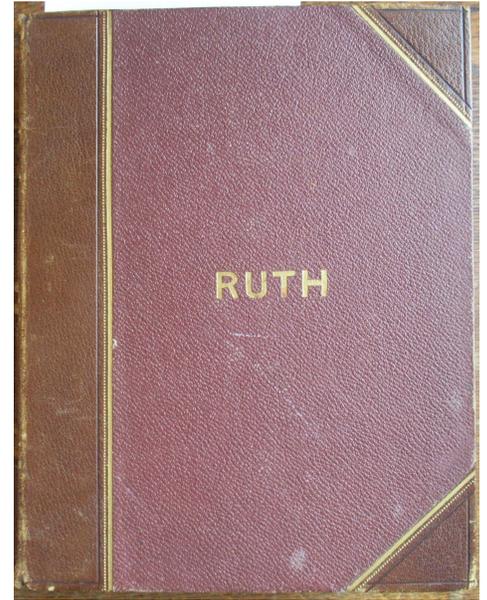
A small fragile volume bound in the publisher's red cloth lettered and decorated in gilt and blind, the cloth is marked, the corners bumped and the spine is splitting at the rear hinge with some minor loss at the bottom. The text block is slightly toned and stained, with minor marks and slight cracking at points. Something of a riddle in book form, it remained in the Verney family until recently but definitive answers as to the circumstances in which Florence inscribed it, and whether and how much she contributed to the contents, seem to have been lost over the decades.

£4,500



7. **Verney, Ruth Florence. Ruth's Gleanings 1883, including greetings cards from her Godmother Florence Nightingale.**

A substantial album, bound in leather with "Ruth" in gilt to the front board, raised bands to the spine and additional simple gilt decoration. Approximately 103 pages, the gleanings in the main being greetings cards, Christmas, New Year and Birthday, approximately 240 in total pasted or tipped-in, with some additional scraps and cuttings and Ruth Florence Verney's later decorative art-nouveau bookplate to the front pastedown. One small Christmas card reads to the reverse in pencil and pen: "For my dear little Ruth with Aunt Florence's Love, 188?", with another below that reading "Ruth with godmother's love 1883", both in Florence Nightingale's hand. Another loosely inserted card reads "Ruth from Godmother Florence", which, judging by inscriptions in some books presented to Ruth by Florence, is probably a note in Ruth's own hand. There is also what appears to be an original sketch, possibly of Florence or Parthenope Nightingale. A fine selection of Victorian greetings cards by Raphael Tuck & Sons, Joseph Mansell, Thomas Stevens, Davidson Brothers etc, with an excellent Florence Nightingale association.



£1,800



8. **Andrews, Mary Raymond Shipman etc. Three books from the library of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter Ruth Florence Verney.**

Hospital Sketches Louisa M. Alcott. John Wilson & Son, Cambridge, U.S.A.,

Includes the introduction by Alcott from the 1869 edition. Second edition, green cloth boards with brown ink design, title to front and spine in gilt. Spine ends and corners bumped, spine rolled, remains tightly bound. The bookplate of Florence's goddaughter and grand-niece by marriage Ruth Florence Verney pasted to the front inner.

Four sketches based on Louisa May Alcott's experiences of six weeks spent as a volunteer nurse for the Union Army during the American Civil War in Georgetown.

Is That Lamp Going Out? By the author of *Where's Master?* Hodder & Stoughton, 1910.

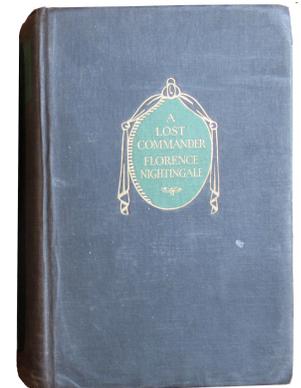
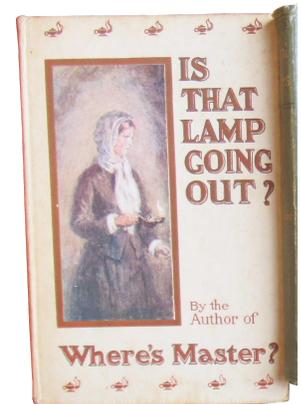
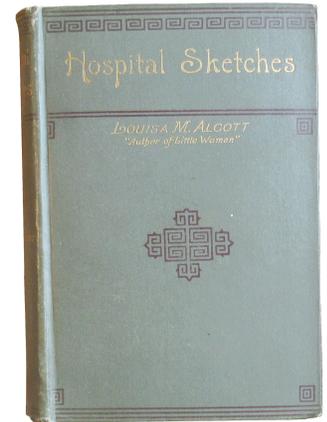
Illustrated white paper boards with a vignette of Florence Nightingale holding an oil lamp. Additional oil lamp decorations stamped to front along with title. Ownership inscription of "Ruth Verney, Plas, Rhoscolyn". A tale for children from the point of view of a Crimean Veteran and also his nurse.

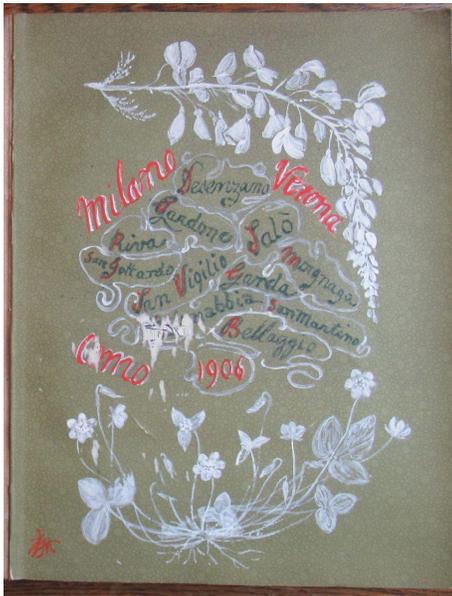
A Lost Commander: Florence Nightingale. Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews. Doubleday, Doran & Company, inc. New York, 1929.

First edition, black cloth boards with decorative title to front and spine in gilt and green. All edges uncut. Frontispiece portrait of Nightingale. Ownership inscription of Ruth Verney dated Oct. 7. 1930.

Multiple letters and newspaper cuttings pertaining to the life and times of Florence Nightingale and her progress in nursing are both tipped in as well as loosely inserted at random throughout. Clippings & correspondence span 1930s & 40s, the correspondence serving to explain the book's well-read and battered condition, describing the numerous people to whom it has been lent.

£300





9. **Two Venetian souvenir postcard albums of a tour of Italy in 1906 taken by Sir Edmund Hope Verney (1838 – 1910) and Lady Margaret Maria Verney (1844 – 1930).**

Two large albums, approximately 53 pages each, with decorated manuscript title pages and the attractive art-nouveau bookplate of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter Ruth Florence Verney to the front pastedown of each volume. Ruth accompanied her parents on the trip with her brother Harry Calvert Williams Verney and one of her sisters. The albums contain a mixture of postcards, cuttings, maps and photographs documenting the tour, with frequent annotations, as well as long quoted passages from F. Marion Crawford's *A Maid in Venice* and Ruskin's *Stone's of Venice*. The likely compiler and annotator of the albums is Ruth Verney, though some of the photographs are initialled "E. H. V.". There are some additional loosely inserted handwritten sheets and postcards, also tipped in samples of plants from various locations. Both albums have lost their spine strips and the boards are somewhat marked and rubbed, but the bindings remain firm and the contents in good order, other than the photographs which have become yellowed and faded over time.

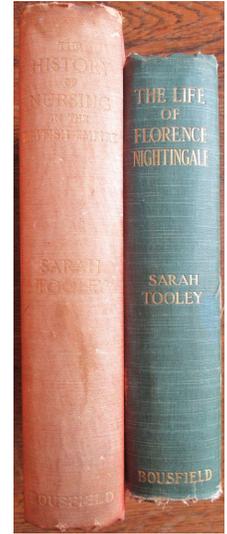
£850

10. **Cook, Sir Edward T. The Life of Florence Nightingale.**

London: Macmillan and Co., Limited, 1913.

First edition. In 2 volumes. With an inscription to Vol 1 which reads: "To Florence Nightingale's god-child Ruth Florence Verney 1913" in an unknown hand, and Ruth's ownership inscription to Vol 2: "Ruth Florence Verney. Plas Rhoscolyn", Plas Rhoscolyn being the Verney family's North Wales retreat. The books are bound in the publisher's blue cloth lettered and decorated in gilt to the spines, the extremities are bumped and rubbed and the cloth is slightly stained, the spines are a little faded. The text blocks are slightly age toned, foxed and dusty with cracking at points. With these is a second impression of Ida O'Malley's *Florence Nightingale 1820 – 1856*, also with an inscription to Ruth Florence Verney. Excellent association copies, Cook's being one of the first comprehensive attempts at producing a biography of Florence Nightingale following her death in 1910.

£250



11. **Three Items owned by Sir Harry Verney 4th Bt., great nephew by marriage to Florence Nightingale, including a book inscribed to him by Florence.**

Harry's grandfather's first wife Margaret Maria Verney was a Welsh educationist and friend to the Nightingales. After her death, Sir Harry 2nd Bt. married Parthenope, and Florence later lived with the family at Clayborn, with Sir Harry giving over a suite of rooms for Florence to write from. Harry was brother to Ruth Florence Verney, Florence Nightingale's goddaughter.

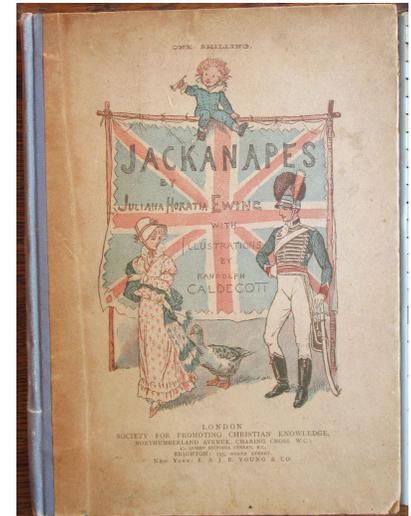
Jackanapes Juliana Horatia Ewing, with illustrations by Randolph Caldecott. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Charing Cross.

Inscribed: "Harry Verney, with Aunt Florence Nightingale's dear love, 1890".

Octavo. Publisher's quarter blue cloth over colour illustrated paper boards. Later printing though undated; 1884 date that appears on the first edition is missing from the front board. 'Hundredth Thousandth' appears to the top of the title page.

Inscription from Florence Nightingale dates the edition at no later than 1890.

Seventeen line illustrations including the title page by the noted artist Randolph Caldecott (1846-86). Paper Boards & both free endpapers are toned, pages generally clean. Minor losses to boards, corners bumped and edges nicked.



Some Personal Reminiscences about Florence Nightingale Sir Harry C. W. Verney 4th Bt., D.S.O.

Given at the Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury, on Wednesday 4th October, 1967

Ring bound transcript of the speech given to nurses by Sir Harry Verney, 4th Baronet, at the Royal Buckingham Hospital, Aylesbury.

Perhaps slightly effusive and potentially exaggerated, Harry's speech recounts his version of events that led to Florence going to Crimea in November 1854. He does however recount a letter he appears to be holding from a wounded Dragoon at Scutari Hospital dated 1955 "No-one can tell the blessing was to us poor fellows when we caught sight of her coming down the room. She would speak a kind word to as many of us as she could, and nod and smile to many more... we could always kiss her shadow as it fell, and lay our heads down on the pillow again, quite happy after that".

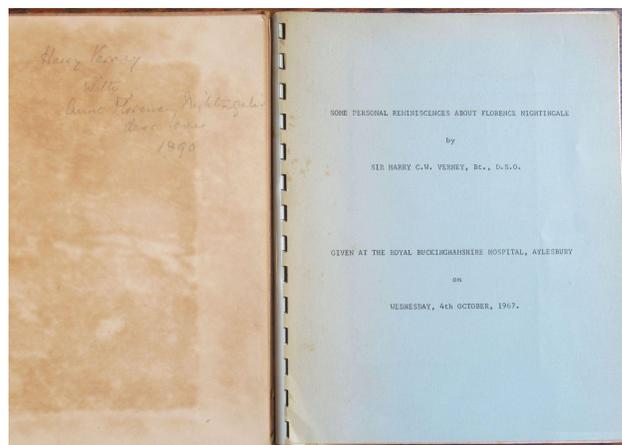
Citing the then recently published letters of Mrs. Gaskill who "... remembers Florence with eighteen little dolls in eighteen little beds waiting to be washed - that is a nice picture"

Harry continues through eleven pages of close typeset, talking in detail about his childhood memories of Florence as well as the versions of her adventures and her influence within the Verney family.

Truly a delightful, if amplified, family account of a loved nephew in dedication to his Aunt.

The Perfect Aunt. From an address given in All Saints' Church, Middle Claydon, on Sunday, 14th August 1960. Sir Harry Verney, Bt. D.S.O., M.A. Reprinted from the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps Vol 107, No. 1, January 1961. Along with a full colour portrait of Florence Nightingale, reproduced 'from an original miniature Water Colour kindly loaned by The Royal College of Nursing Library.'

The address gives an overview of Florence's life from her great nephew Sir Harry's perspective, including quotes



and anecdotes to later be found in the Personal Reminiscences of 1967 described above.

In addition is a Verney family copy of *Florence Nightingale at Harley Street; her reports to the governors of her nursing home 1853-4*. Sir Harry Verney 4th Baronet. J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., 1970.

First edition, publisher's paper covered boards in blue marble, red title label with gilt lettering, title to spine in gilt. Loosely inserted photograph of Florence Nightingale at Claydon House, along with a plain postcard addressed to 'SJR' asking if they would like this book.

£3,000

For any further photographs, or indeed sales enquiries, please contact:

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