

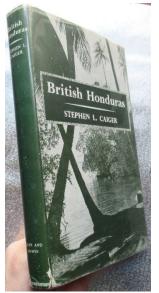
Late January 2024

1. Brooke-Rose, Christine. A Structural Analysis of Pound's Usura Canto.

The Hague: Mouton, 1976.

First edition. 76 pages. The book is firmly bound in the original cream coloured card wraps, lettered in black and red, the spine is faded and the covers are lightly rubbed and marked. The text block is slightly age toned and dusty with minor marks.





2. Caiger, Stephen L. British Honduras Past and Present.

London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1951.

First edition. 240 pages, with a map to the rear endpaper and pastedown. The book is firmly bound in yellowish beige coloured cloth, lettered in green to the spine, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is age toned, slightly marked and dusty. The photo-illustrated dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, with the image attributed to an E. O. Hoppe, it is slightly rubbed, marked and toned, with small chips and short closed tears to the edges, some with associated creasing. A presentable copy of an uncommon title.

£100

3. Cullen, J. P. and P. P. Jennings. Birds of the Isle of Man.

Bridgeen, 1986.

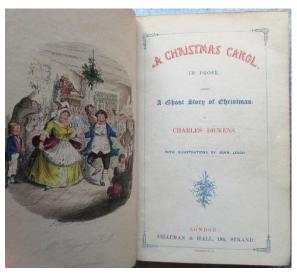
First edition. 364 pages. Signed by one of the authors, Pat Cullen to the half-title page. The book is quite firmly bound in dark green cloth, lettered in gilt to the spine, the extremities are a little bumped and rubbed. The text block is lightly toned and marked, with the bookplate of Eric Geoffrey Goldrein to the front pastedown. Eric was a local WW2 hero, who famously captured 60 German soldiers while wounded during the Normandy Landings. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is lightly marked and rubbed.



A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF POUND'S USURA CANTO

MOUTON

£25



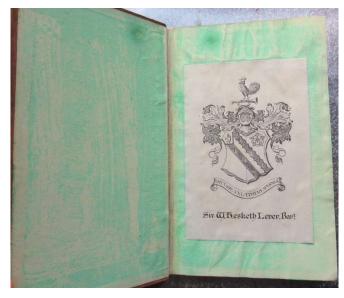
4. Dickens, Charles. A Christmas Carol.

London: Chapman and Hall, 1843.

First edition. 166 pages + 2 of ads, and 4 colour illustrated plates. With the following issue points: green endpapers, the title page printed in blue and red, the "Stave I." chapter heading, a minimum distance of approximately 14mm between the gilt stamping to the front board and that in blind to the border, and the "D" of Dickens unbroken. The book has some interesting and illustrious provenance, having been part of the famous Victorian industrialist and philanthropist, William Hesketh Lever,

1st Viscount Leverhulme's library, and features two iterations of his bookplate, the first post-1911 when he became the Baronet of Thornton Manor, and the second post-1917 when he was made Baron Leverhulme of Bolton-le-

Moors. More recently, for many decades, it belonged to Eric Geoffrey Goldrein (1921-2022), a WW2 hero who took part in the Normandy Landings and captured 60 German soldiers while wounded, subsequently conducting a successful career as a barrister and becoming Lord Mayor of Hale during his retirement. Eric in this instance refrained from applying his own bookplate, doubtless considering that the book was sufficiently weighed down already by the earlier claims of ownership, but one is loosely included. The book is firmly bound in the original ribbed cloth, it has been recently sympathetically conserved, preserving the surviving half of the spine strip, the spine has been re-lined and the



missing section blended in with similarly toned paper with no attempt to recreate the missing gilt lettering or decoration, the front and rear boards are slightly marked and rubbed and the corners have been stabilised. The text block, with gilt to all edges, is slightly marked and age toned with a few dog-eared corners, there is some minor staining to the endpapers, also creasing to the front endpaper caused by the two Lever bookplates, one on either side of the page, and the gutters have been discreetly repaired. The book is now stored in a robust custom-made brown cloth drop-back box, with a green cloth gilt-lettered title label to the spine, marbled paper edges and green velvet lining. A well-presented first edition of perhaps Dicken's most famous work, with excellent, squeaky-clean provenance.

£15,000



5. Doyle, Arthur Conan et al. The Strand Magazine Vol. XL, No. 240 – Featuring: A Reminiscence of

Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Devil's Foot.

London: George Newnes Ltd, 1910.

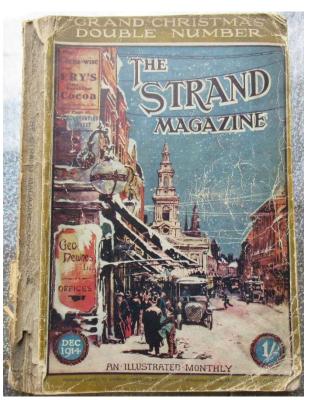
First edition. Comprising: 128 pages of ads & Contents, frontispiece, then pages 639-844 of the magazine, and finally pages 128-170 of continued ads. A Double Christmas Number for December 1910, bound in the original illustrated wraps, which are quite grubby, rubbed and creased with small chips and closed tears to the edges, the spine strip is substantially present though with some chipping at the ends and various tears and splits with the paper curling over. The text block is age toned, slightly marked and grubby, with softened corners, many of the earlier and later pages of ads are dog-eared. Containing, in addition to the Sherlock Holmes Adventure, articles on a Dinosaur Park, The Art of the Gesture and early powered flight. With plenty of faults and possibly in need of some judicious conservation to stabilise the outer illustrated wraps, but nevertheless a serviceable surviving individual issue.



£500

6. Doyle, Arthur Conan et al. The Strand Magazine Vol. XLVIII. No. 288 - Featuring A New Sherlock Holmes Story: The Valley of Fear.

London: George Newnes Ltd, 1914.



First edition. Comprising: 62 pages of ads and Contents, then pages 602-800 of the magazine, and finally pages 63-80 of continued ads. A Double Christmas Number for December 1914, bound in the original illustrated wraps, in poor shape, read so often that the spine has become cocked to the point of being nearly horizontal, the covers heavily rubbed, creased, toned and grubby, with small chips and closed tears to the edges, the spine strip fragile with loss to the bottom and other smaller chips and tears. The text block is age toned, grubby and marked, the corners bumped and softened, many of the earlier and later pages are dog-eared. Quite an uncommon single issue of The Strand Magazine, the wartime privations already beginning to bite with far fewer adverts than in the prosperous pre-war days, and this copy looking as though it saw active service entertaining troops in the trenches, but it survives and could be stabilised by a skilled book-binder/paper conservator.

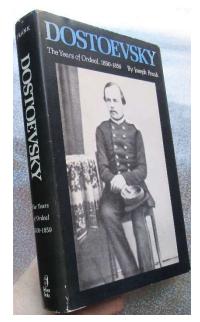
7. Esson-Scott, Rosemary. Return To Spring.

London: Robert Hale Limited, 1959.

First edition. 191 pages + 1 of ads. The book is firmly bound in blue cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt and silver, the boards are lightly marked and the extremities are a little bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly toned, marked, dusty and musty. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly grubby and rubbed, with small nicks and short closed tears to the edges, the spine is slightly faded. This appears to be Esson-Scott's debut novel, the first of four, a romance about a widowed woman of 43, with two grown up children, who feels life is passing her by, until she meets the square-jawed, masculine, Bentley driving millionaire, Roger. It is a rare find, particularly in the dust jacket.



£30



8. Frank, Joseph. Dostoevsky The Years of Ordeal, 1850-1859.

Robson Books, 1983.

First U.K. edition. 320 pages. The Book is firmly bound in rough oatmeal coloured cloth, with a dark blue cloth spine strip, lettered and decorated in white and gilt, the extremities are a little bumped and rubbed. The text block is lightly marked and age toned, with a loosely inserted publisher's compliments slip. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly rubbed, marked and faded, with minor nicks and creasing to the edges. A relatively uncommon find in this more expensive hardback format.

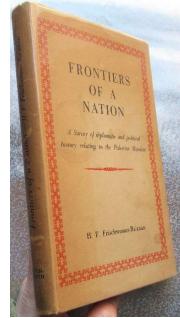
£35

9. Frischwasser-Ra'anan, H. F. The Frontiers of a Nation: A re-examination of the forces which created the

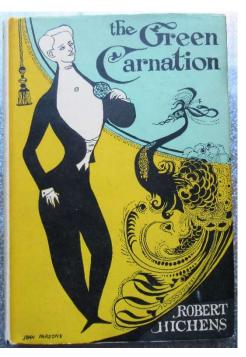
Palestine Mandate and determined its territorial shape.

The Batchworth Press, 1955.

First edition. 168 pages. The book is firmly bound in dark blue cloth, lettered in slightly tarnished gilt to the spine, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly age toned, dusty and marked, with the bookplate of Eric Geoffrey Goldrein to the front pastedown. Eric was a local WW2 hero, who famously captured 60 German soldiers while wounded during the Normandy Landings. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is age toned, more so to the spine, slightly rubbed and stained, with small chips and short closed tears to the edges.



10. Hichens, Robert. The Green Carnation.



London: The Unicorn Press, 1949.

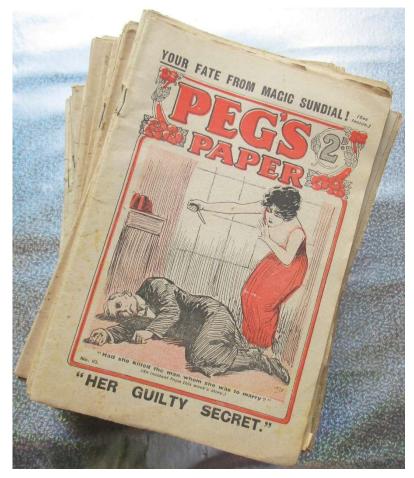
New edition. First thus, with an 11-page introduction from the author, relating the circumstances in which it was first written following Hichens' meeting with Lord Alfred Douglas and subsequent introduction to Oscar Wilde, as well as the reaction of its two subjects to the first publication. The book is firmly bound in dark blueish green cloth, lettered and decorated in light blue, the design a homage to that of the 1894 first edition, the extremities are a little bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly foxed, dusty and toned. The dust jacket, with its John Parsons design evoking the decadent fin de siècle spirit of the novel's setting, is the original and not price clipped, it is slightly marked, rubbed and toned, with a few small chips and short closed tears to the edges.

£35

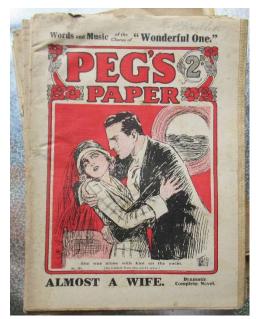
11. 59 issues of Peg's Paper and Peg's Companion.

London: C. Arthur Pearson Limited, 1920-1926.

59 individual staple-bound issues, 45 of Peg's Paper and 14 of its subsidiary publication, Peg's Companion. The earliest issue of Peg's Paper is No. 83 dated 7th December 1920 and the latest No. 317 dated June 2nd 1925, issues as follows: 83-85, 87, 90, 93, 243-259, 261, 263, 266, 295-297, 299-303, 305-309 and 312-317. The earliest issue of Peg's Companion is No. 133 dated May 13th 1924 and the latest No. 185 May 12th 1925, issues as follows: 133, 171-181 and 184-185. They are in fairly uniform condition, many are signed "Bartlett" in pencil to the top of the front cover, probably by a newsagent rather than the owner, and look to have been together since new. They are age toned, slightly foxed and grubby, with some minor tears and creasing to the rough cut page edges, 3 issues have become folded at the corners with resulting creases



that could be smoothed out. The famous cheap, post-WW1 weekly periodical, targeted at young, working class women, shop, factory and mill workers, containing a mixture of sensation and romance fiction, advice columns and fortunes. The fiction often involving relatable working class protagonists crossing class divides in pursuit of love, and travelling to exotic locations, or lurid and cautionary tales of girls caught up in the criminal underworld. All feature dramatic cover artwork in red and black or red and blue, owing much in terms of composition and style to silent films,



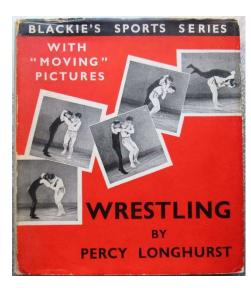
many credited to the same artist, "HEB". Most issues contain a separate, complete story or novel, with some longer serials, with titles such as 'Only a Shop-Girl', 'At the Mercy of Men', 'One Night of Madness', 'should a Girl Tell?' and 'Lawless Love'. The stories are credited to a wide variety of names, almost certainly all pseudonymous, there's some duplication, but most to a different author and there's a sense of plausible invention to them, e. g.: Bertha Chesterton, Charlotte Garvice, Cora Linda and Doris Rayne. The paper was highly popular and influential, spawning a host of imitators. However, due to the cheap ephemeral nature of production and the target audience, the attrition rate over the decades has been high and a century on few copies survive.

£600

12. Longhurst, Percy. Wrestling.

London: Blackie & Son Limited, 1938.

First edition. 88 pages. Part of "Blackies Sports Series" with "Moving" pictures. The book is firmly bound in lightly marked and rubbed red cloth, lettered in black, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly dusty, marked and age toned, with the bookplate of Eric Geoffrey Goldrein to the front pastedown. Eric was a local WW2 hero, who famously captured 60 German soldiers while wounded during the Normandy Landings, he has also drawn a 3D "E" in pencil to the rear endpaper. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is quite rubbed and stained, with minor nicks and short closed tears to the edges,



the spine and part of the rear panel are faded. An interesting series, each title combining expert instruction with multiple "flicker" book demonstrations of the movements, but in a robust hardback format. That said, robust or not, most have been flicked to destruction by now and this particular title is rarely encountered in the dust jacket.

£80



13. McCabe, Patrick. Carn.

London: Aidan Ellis, 1989.

First edition. 252 pages. The book is firmly bound in lightly marked black cloth, lettered in gilt to the spine, the extremities are a little bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly marked and age toned, the book is, incidentally, from the library of David Lodge and almost certainly his review copy, though with nothing to indicate this other than a few passages highlighted in pencil. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is lightly marked, there are a few minor nicks to the edges and the spine is slightly sunned.

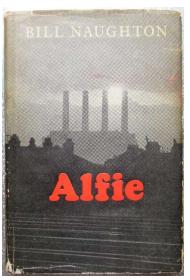
14. Mantel, Hilary. A Change of Climate.

London: Viking, 1994.

First edition. Uncorrected proof copy. 342 pages. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's white card wraps, lettered and decorated in various shades of blue, the covers are somewhat toned, creased, marked and rubbed. The text block is slightly toned and marked. Mantel's sixth published novel, a relatively uncommon find in this proof format which reproduces the manuscript corrections of an earlier version and contains some differences to the published first edition, for instance lacking the dedication.



£40



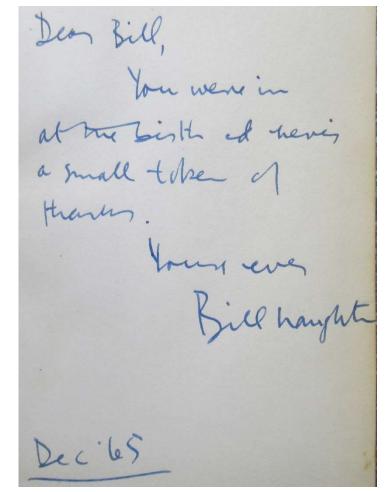
15. Naughton, Bill. Alfie - Inscribed to Compo, the original Alfie.

London: MacGibbon & Kee, 1966.

First edition. 208 pages. Inscribed by the author to the front endpaper: "Dear Bill, You were in at the birth & here is a small token of thanks. Yours ever Bill Naughton Dec '65". The recipient was the actor, Bill Owen (best remembered now as Compo in Last of the Summer Wine, perpetually in pursuit of Nora Batty), who played the role of Alfie in Naughton's original 1962 radio play, 'Alfie Elkins and His Little Life', which was first broadcast on the

celebrated BBC Third Programme.
The December 1965 date of the inscription would indicate that this

was one of Naughton's complimentary copies from the publisher and that Owen was among the first people to receive a copy. The book is firmly bound in lightly marked black cloth, lettered and simply decorated in gilt to the spine, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is age browned, with some small stains and minor marks. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is stained, toned, marked and rubbed, the spine is sunned, there are small chips and short closed tears to the edges and the front flap fold has partially split, some of these are repaired with small pieces of thin paper archival tape to the reverse. In the absence of an official dedicatee the book inscribed to the original Alfie (and future Compo) surely qualifies as the ultimate association copy, though Michael Caine's might run it close.



16. Signed and Annotated books from the estate of Actor Bill Owen

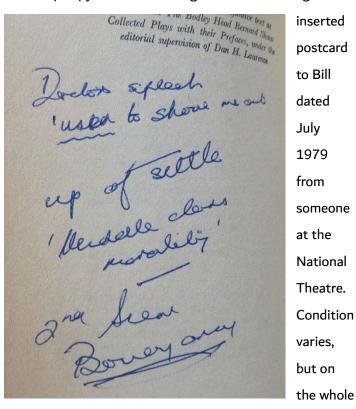
1949-1973.

A collection of 9 books from the estate of Bill and Tom Owen. Including: Bill Owen's copies of his own plays, The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists and Party for Jeremy, both with quite extensive pencil alterations and corrections in his hand, a copy of Owen's 'The Ragged School' inscribed by Bill in ink to the title page: "To you both Love Dad.", the recipient presumably his son, Tom. There is also an unjacketed first edition of William

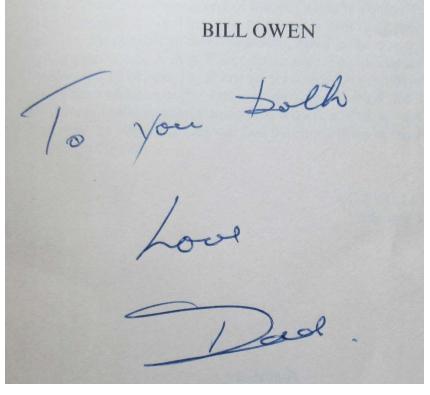
Inge's Come Back Little Sheba with Bill Owen's



name and address neatly written in ink to the front endpaper, and heavily marked up working copies of plays he performed in: Edward Albee's 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf', Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion' and a collection of Seven Plays by Eugene O'Neill, several marked up and with some loosely inserted notes. There is also Tom Owen's marked up copy of Terence Rattigan's 'The Browning Version' and a copy of O'Neill's 'The Iceman Cometh' with a loosely

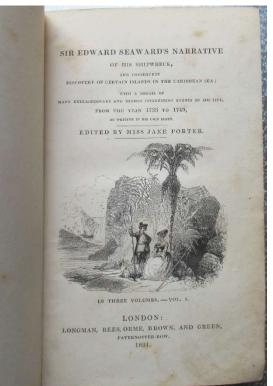


inserted postcard to Bill dated July 1979 from someone at the National Theatre. Condition varies, but on



the books are well worn with plenty of signs of hard practical use, toning, creasing, rubbing and staining etc, The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists has lost its rear cover and the front cover is detached. A fascinating insight into Bill Owen's working life as a playwright and actor prior to achieving wider fame in his long-running role of Compo in Last of the Summer Wine, much of it indicative of his firmly left-wing political views and working class background.

17. Porter, Jane (editor). Sir Edward Seaward's Narrative of His Shipwreck, and Consequent Discovery of Certain Islands in the Caribbean Sea: With a Detail of Many Extraordinary and Highly Interesting Events in His Life from the Year 1833 to 1749, As Written in His Own Diary.



London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green, 1831.

First edition. 3 vols, 344, 361 and 343 pages respectively. The books are quite firmly bound without ads or half-titles in brown half-calf, simply decorated in blind, with black title labels lettered and decorated in gilt, and marbled paper covered boards, the binding appears to be contemporary to the date of publication. The leather is slightly rubbed and marked with minor loss at the spine heads and corners, the boards are quite rubbed and age darkened, with some chipping at the edges. The text blocks are age toned, slightly marked, stained and foxed, with minor cracking at points, some dog-eared page corners and a few short closed tears to page edges, Vol III has heavier staining to some pages from liquid splashes, particularly around the middle section. An A. H. P. Hope has made a claim of ownership in pencil to the front pastedown of all volumes, and there is an earlier looking ink ownership inscription to the front endpaper of Vol I by an L. J. W. Jervis of Felixstowe, with a further ink

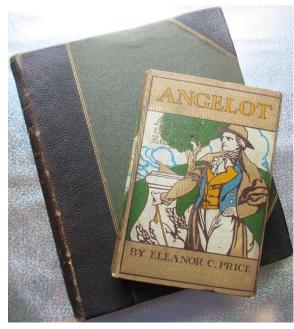
"Jervis" for good measure to the opposing front pastedown. An excellent tale, detailing the life and adventures of Sir Edward and his wife, Eliza, the first volume dealing largely with their survival on remote islands in the manner of Robinson Crusoe, while the latter part of the narrative describes plantation life in the West Indies and conflict with the Spaniards, with an anti-slavery slant, which would have been of particular relevance at the time of publication

given the imminent Slavery Abolition Act of 1833. The novel has gone through several phases, initially taken at face value due to its ring of authenticity as a true narrative edited by a famous author, who certainly did supply the Preface, then for a long while considered to be an entirely fictional literary hoax written by Jane Porter, before letters by her brother, William Ogilvie Porter were re-discovered in more recent decades, and the initial assessment became essentially true, it being a novel in diary form loosely based upon his own maritime experiences and observations. Which explains the sense of authenticity and also the tongue in cheek Jibes of Jane Porter towards her sibling in the Preface, such as: "The style is certainly homely, but not that of an ignorant man". William's letters make clear that Jane's edits were substantial, correcting and improving the writing to make it suitable for publication. It was highly successful, reprinted numerous times throughout the nineteenth century, and the first edition, with its print run of 1000 copies, is quite well represented in institutional holdings, however it is seldom encountered in the wild and only rarely does a copy become commercially available. This copy, while modest in appearance, is a solid, honest and generally pleasing example.

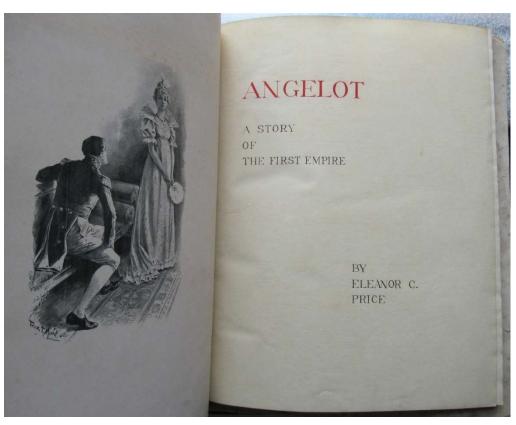


18. Price, Eleanor C. Original Circa 1901 Typescript of Angelot: A Story of the First Empire.

412 pages + handwritten title page in black and red, plus 4 over-sized black and white illustrations by Frank T. Merrill, these being the illustrations used in the American edition, rather than those by Tom Robinson which appear in the English version. The typescript has numerous minor manuscript alterations and corrections in the author's hand, with other small notes and the chapter subtitles also handwritten, it is signed with the author's name and address to the reverse of several pages in ink or pencil: "E. C. Price, St. Barnabas Vicarage, Worcester". It is firmly bound in black Morocco with hardwearing dark green cloth boards, simply lettered and decorated in gilt, with marbled endpapers, the outer boards are slightly bumped, rubbed, marked and bowed. The typescript and illustrations are on paper of varying sizes, leading to short closed



tears to the edges of some pages and soiling and discolouration to exposed margins, the top edge of the block has been neatly trimmed and gilded. The tale is a historical romance with a happy ever after ending, set in postrevolutionary republican France, two young lovers with dangerous Royalist sympathies have to win through against



the machinations of a much older, coarse, low-born but highly favoured General in Napoleon's army, and the young girl's cruel, scheming mother. There is violence, intrigue, misunderstandings, Gothic motifs and the looming spectre of the Emperor of France himself, much to be enjoyed and all highly entertaining and well-written. With the typescript is a U.K. first edition of the novel, published by George Newnes in 1902, which is quite uncommon in its own right, and includes among the adverts to the rear one for Arthur Conan Doyle's "New" sherlock

Holmes novel, 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'. There are no ownership marks in the book so it is unclear whether the two have always been together, or one was paired with the other for reference. Eleanor Catharine Price (1847-1933) was a prolific author and journalist, perhaps best remembered now for her ghost stories, some of which appeared in the famous Victorian supernatural anthology, Dreamland and Ghostland, and deserves to be more widely known.

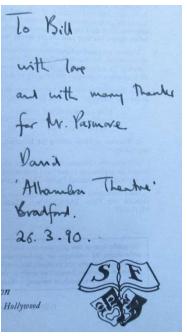
19. Roy, Arundhati. The God of Small Things.

London: Flamingo, 1997.

U.K. first edition, uncorrected proof copy. 340 pages. The book is firmly bound in the illustrated card wraps, which are slightly marked, creased and rubbed. The text block is lightly marked and toned. Roy's debut novel, winner of the Booker Prize, with photocopies of several reviews from November 1997 issues of The Hindu Magazine loosely inserted.



£30



20. Storey, David. The March on Russia.

London: Samuel French, 1969.

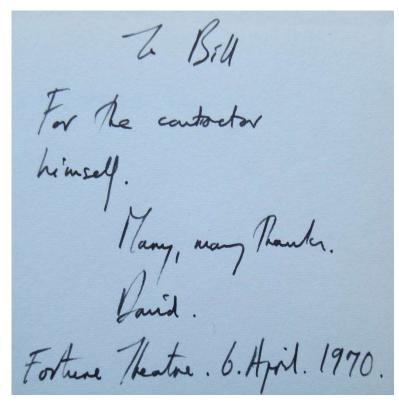
First edition. 64 pages + "Effects Plot" and colophon. Inscribed by the author to the title page: "To Bill with love and with many thanks for Mr. Pasmore. David 'Alhambra Theatre' Bradford 26. 3. 90.". The recipient was the actor, Bill Owen who, as the inscription indicates, played the role of Pasmore in the play, and had further creative input, suggesting that it be toured under the less overtly political title 'Jubilee'. The book is firmly bound in the publisher's brown card wraps, lettered in white, there are some minor marks and the edges are a little rubbed and creased. The text block is lightly marked and toned with slight creasing to the page corners. An excellent association copy, Owen and Storey were friends and collaborated several times over the decades.

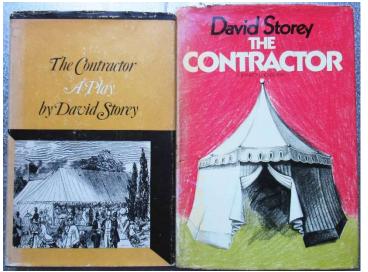
£200

21. Storey, David. The Contractor.

London & New York: Jonathan Cape & Random House, 1970.

First edition. 122 pages. Inscribed by the author to the front endpaper: "For the contractor himself. Many, many thanks. David. Fortune Theatre. 6. April. 1970.". The recipient was the actor, Bill Owen who, as the inscription indicates, played the eponymous role in the play. The date of the inscription is significant and testament to the success of the play, as its first run began in October 1969 at the Royal Court Theatre, April 6th being the opening night of its second run at the Fortune Theatre, which continued until January 1971. Also present, and adding emphasis to this long of good fortune, is a U.S. first edition of the play, also inscribed affectionately by Storey





to Owen: "To Bill to commemorate New Year's Eve 1971. With love and many thanks. David.". The book is firmly bound in lightly marked black cloth, lettered in gilt to the spine, the extremities are a little bumped and rubbed. The text block is age browned, slightly marked and stained. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is quite rubbed, toned and marked, the spine is faded and there are small nicks and short closed tears to the edges, some with associated creasing. The U.S. first edition, so stated and with the number line running to "2" as was the practice at Random House at the time, is in

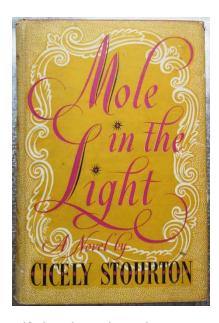
similar condition, with some surface loss to the original laminate coating. An excellent pair of association copies, Owen and Storey were friends and collaborated several times over the decades.

£500

22. Stourton, Cicely. Mole in the Light.

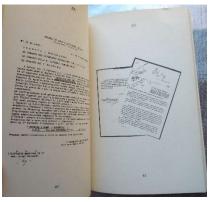
London: Robert Hale Limited, 1948.

First edition. 247 pages + 1 of ads. Publisher's File Copy, stamped as such to the front endpaper. The book is firmly bound in slightly marked red cloth, lettered in gilt to the spine, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is slightly foxed, dusty, musty and age toned. The N Jaques designed dust jacket is the original, it has been clipped and re-priced, it is quite grubby, rubbed and marked, the spine is slightly toned and faded and there are small chips and short closed tears to the edges. The author's first and seemingly only novel, an ambitious story of romance and mystery with an embedded narrative, in which a young woman meets and falls in love with a much



older man at a party, who is perturbed when he finds out her name and disappears, her grandfather then relates the story of her mother's first marriage to this same man, this a tale of passion, jealousy and potentially murder in the West Indies and South America, at the end of which the young woman is still keen to meet the much less mysterious older man again. Though quite well represented in institutional holdings it is rare in commerce, particularly in the thin paper post-war economy standards dust jacket.

£50



23. Documents on the Italian Intervention in Spain. 1937

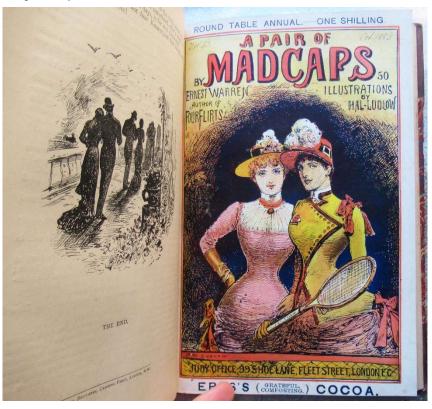
First edition. 92 pages. The book is bound in the original card wraps, lettered in black, the covers are toned, rubbed, marked and nicked, more so to the spine strip, which is beginning to split at the folds towards the edges. The text block is age browned and lightly marked.

£20

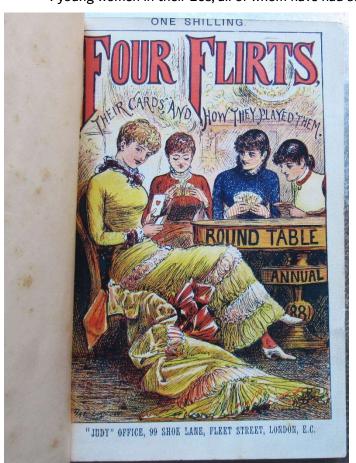
24. Warren, Ernest (Illustrated by Hal Ludlow). The Round Table Annual: The Four Flirts: Their Cards and How They Played Them and A Pair of Madcaps. A Story of Impulse.

London: "Judy" Office, 1881 & 1883.

First editions. 2 vols bound as one, each with its original colour illustrated card cover. 118 and 122 pages respectively. Bound in red Victorian half calf, with marbled boards, simple gilt decoration to the spine and a gilt-lettered title label, the boards are quite bumped and rubbed, the hinges are worn and beginning to split and there is minor loss at the spine ends. The text block is slightly foxed, marked and age toned, with some dog-eared corners, 'A Pair of Madcaps has the initials "J. W. B." and the date "Oct 1883" neatly written in ink to the cover. The Round Table Annual was one of a slew of "shilling shockers" published to capitalise



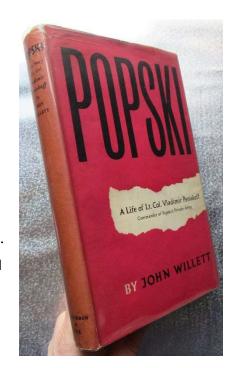
on the period's boom in cheaper colour printing, increased literacy and general prosperity, an expanded version of the cheaper weekly periodical "Judy". Ernest Warren wrote at least nine novels for the Annual during the 1880s, all romances or tales of crossed love. The first of these, The Four Flirts, is more a series of interconnected short stories, 4 young women in their 20s, all of whom have had bad experiences with men decide to emulate King Arthur and form



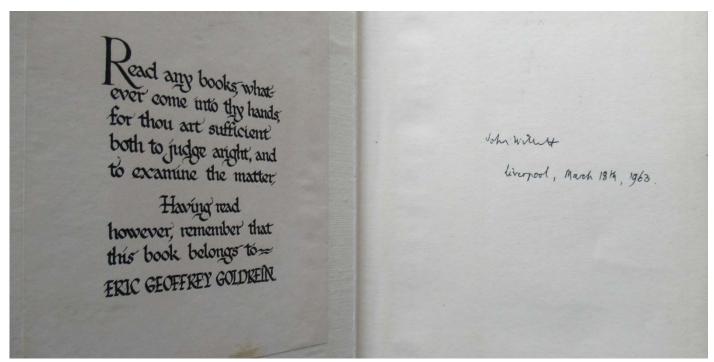
a council to protect other women from suffering their fates at the hands of unworthy and unfaithful men, but first to prove their suitability for the task each recounts the story of their life and the tragic events that befell them. The second story is a more linear, decidedly racy romance with a happy ending, in which a teenage girl runs away to London alone in pursuit of her older would-be lover, stays with her recently married friend who finds her husband dull and, as he is frequently away, finds other men to flirt with, and the two embark on a series of adventures, the younger woman eventually realising her folly and finding true love with a comparatively respectable young man nearer her own age. The Four Flirts turns up quite often, A Pair of Madcaps is more seldom seen, and both are rarely found with their colour illustrated covers present, these two, as they were evidently bound almost immediately, retaining much of their original vibrancy.

London: MacGibbon & Kee, 1954.

First edition. 222 pages. Inscribed by the author to the front endpaper: "John Willett Liverpool, March 18th 1963.". The recipient was Eric Geoffrey Goldrein, with his bookplate to the front pastedown. Eric was a local WW2 hero, who famously captured 60 German soldiers while wounded during the Normandy Landings, and at this date in 1963 was a well-known barrister in the city. The book is firmly bound in lightly marked green cloth, lettered in gilt to the spine, the extremities are slightly bumped and rubbed. The text block is age toned, lightly marked and dusty. The dust jacket is the original and not price clipped, it is age browned, slightly marked and grubby, with small chips and short closed tears to the edges, the spine is slightly sunned.



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