

Dust Jackets
as Art

RARE &
ANTIQUÉ
BOOKS



Dust Jackets as Art

The dust jacket, once a purely functional afterthought, has become one of the most expressive and desirable elements of the modern book. Originally introduced in the late 19th century as a simple, plain and disposable protective wrapper, the dust jacket has evolved into an essential part of a book's identity. Early examples were rarely designed to endure, which makes surviving jackets from this period scarce today.

By the early 20th century, especially during the Art Deco period, publishers began to recognise the artistic and commercial potential of the dust jacket. Illustrated designs, bold typography, and striking colour palettes transformed these ephemeral coverings into powerful marketing tools. Artists and designers were commissioned to capture the spirit of a book in a single image, creating visual interpretations that, in many cases, have become inseparable from the texts they enclose.

For collectors, the presence and condition of a dust jacket can dramatically influence a book's value. A first edition in its original jacket—particularly one that is bright, unclipped, and undamaged, may command many times the price of the same volume without it.

In this catalogue, we celebrate the dust jacket as both art and artefact. Each example represents a meeting of literature and design of the period; a reminder that the book, in its finest form, is as much a visual experience as it is a literary one.

Each image has a link to the book on our website. For enquiries, email enquiries@rareandantiquebooks.com

Enjoy our blog - [Art Deco 1930's Dust Jackets](#) further information.

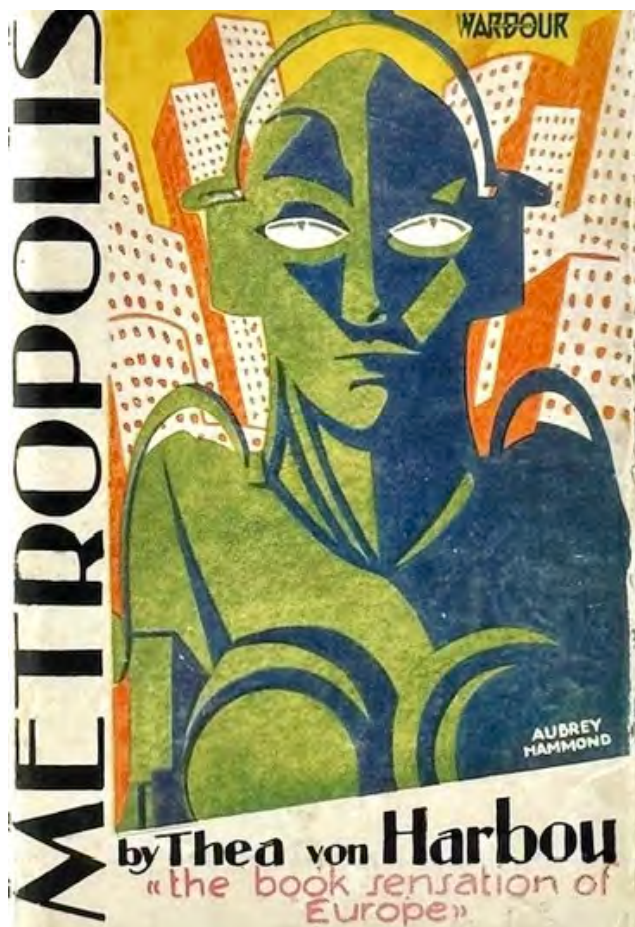
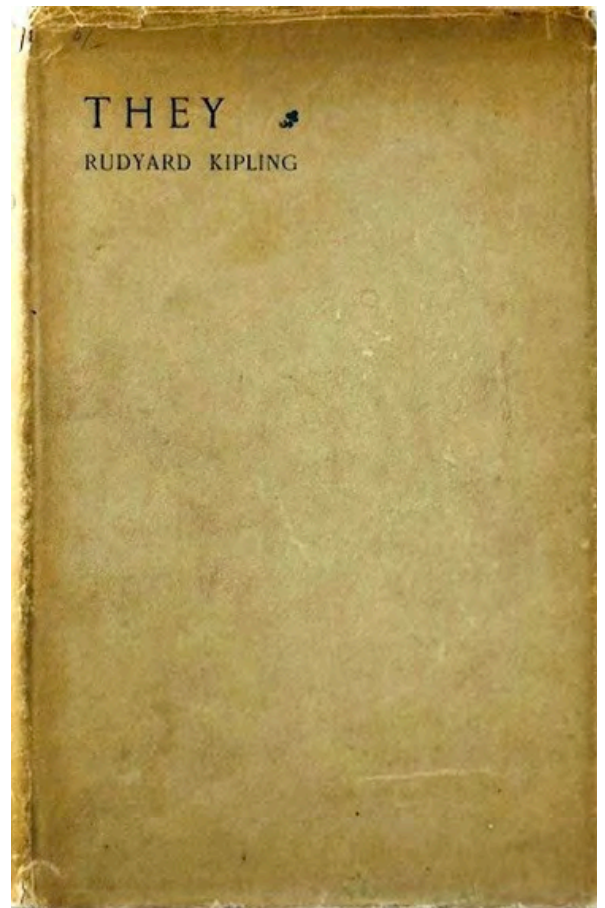
1. They - Rudyard Kipling

First edition

Published by Macmillan and Co Ltd, London 1905

A good example of a 'disposable' early jacket. 1st edition, 1st state, rare to find with dust jacket. With "Bemrose Dalziel Ltd, London and Watford" printed on the last page. Browned dust jacket with chipping and loss on the spine ends. Darkened spine colour. Small hole in the centre of the spine. 8vo 80pp

£550



2. Metropolis - Thea von Harbou

First edition 1927 (undated).

Published by The Readers Library Publishing Company Ltd, London

A rare first UK edition of the classic novel, Metropolis, complete with dust jacket, illustrated by Aubrey Hammond. First state with no mention of this title in the advertisements inside the book or on the dust jacket flap. The bright dust jacket has professional restoration to the folds and spine ends. 8vo 250pp

£2800



3. Dracula's Guest - Bram Stoker

First edition

Published by George Routledge & Sons,
Ltd, London 1914

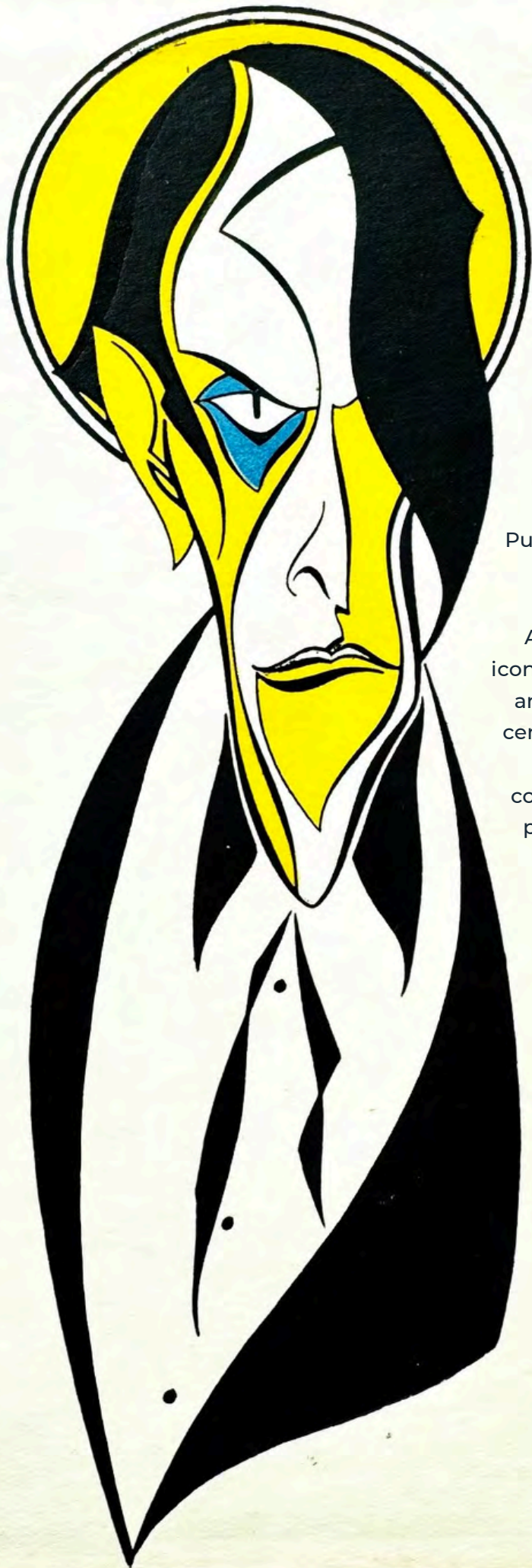
Scarce copy of Dracula's Guest with a preserved pictorial front panel and connected front flap of the original first state dust jacket. Colourful, pictorial jackets of this age are rarely found. Illustrated by William Handforth, it is one of the few contemporary visual interpretations of the deleted opening chapter of Stoker's Dracula. Preserved pictorial front panel and front flap, laid over a facsimile jacket. 8vo 200 pp.

£3550

MOONCHILD



BY
ALEISTER
CROWLEY



4. Moonchild - Aleister Crowley

First edition
Published by The Mandrake Press, Ltd,
London 1929

A very good copy. Much sought after iconic dust jacket, illustrated by satirical artist Beresford Egan. Egan became a central figure in the London bohemian scene, gaining notoriety for his controversial illustrations. Bright with professional repairs on the spine and edges. 8vo 335 pp

£2295



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HANDBOOK

1929



5. The BBC Handbooks - the first 25 years

The BBC handbooks form one of the most visually ambitious and culturally revealing sequences of dust jackets in British publishing. First issued in 1928, the BBC Handbook was conceived as an annual survey of broadcasting in Britain but what distinguishes the series for the collector, however, are the jackets. From the outset, the BBC treated the dust wrapper as a site of modern design, commissioning leading illustrators rather than relying on house styles.

For the antiquarian collector, the BBC handbooks of 1928–1952 offer a uniquely coherent yet varied run. They are unified by purpose and format, yet each year presents a fresh artistic response to the idea of broadcasting. The jackets chart not only the development of the BBC itself but also the broader trajectory of British graphic design.

The inaugural 1928 volume, with its striking wrapper by Edward McKnight Kauffer, set the tone, bringing a bold, graphic modernism, derived from Cubism and Futurism. His designs for the 1928 and 1929 handbooks emphasised transmission, speed, and the invisible architecture of radio—often through abstracted aerials, radiating lines, or symbolic figures.

By the early 1930s, the series became a veritable survey of British commercial art. Artists such as Tom Purvis and Dora Batty introduced a lighter, more playful idiom. The wartime and immediate post-war years introduced a noticeable shift in tone - more serious and authoritative.

This set predominantly come with their original jackets in good condition. The 1928 and 1939 are facsimile jackets. The rare 1935-7 issues (lacking jackets) were published in a different trialed format which was not continued.

Sold as the full set - £975

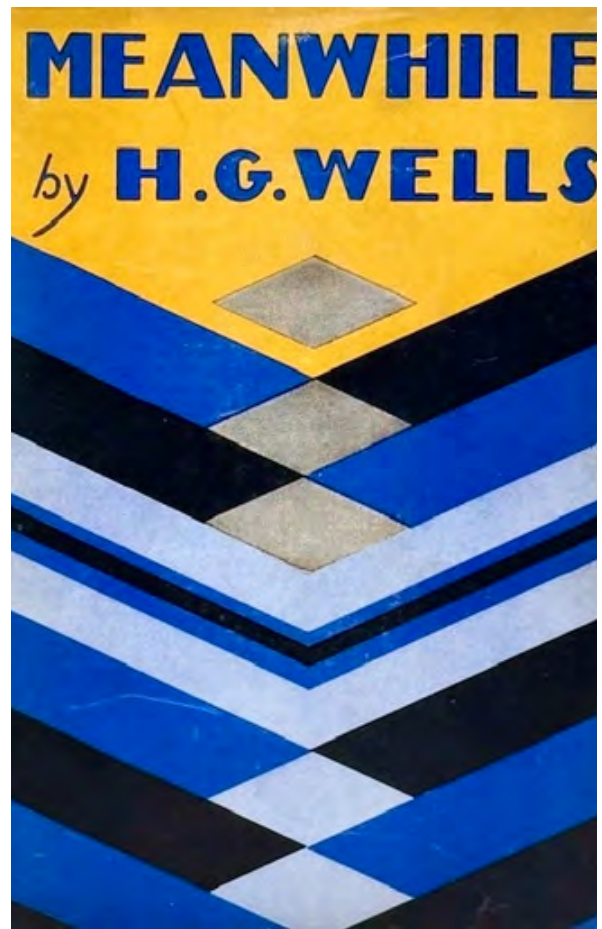
6. *Meanwhile* by H. G. Wells

First US edition

Published by George H. Doran Company, New York 1927

The first U.S printing of *Meanwhile* with Art Deco design jacket. During this early period in the development of dust jackets, the US designs were frequently more colourful and adventurous than those produced in the UK. This is a classic example. The UK first edition was plain with a few small and very simple cartoon illustrations. Unclipped dust jacket lightly with internal tape repairs of small tears on the upper edge. There was no accreditation to the illustrator. Lightly rubbed jacket. 320 pp 8vo

£95



7. *The Conan Doyle Stories*

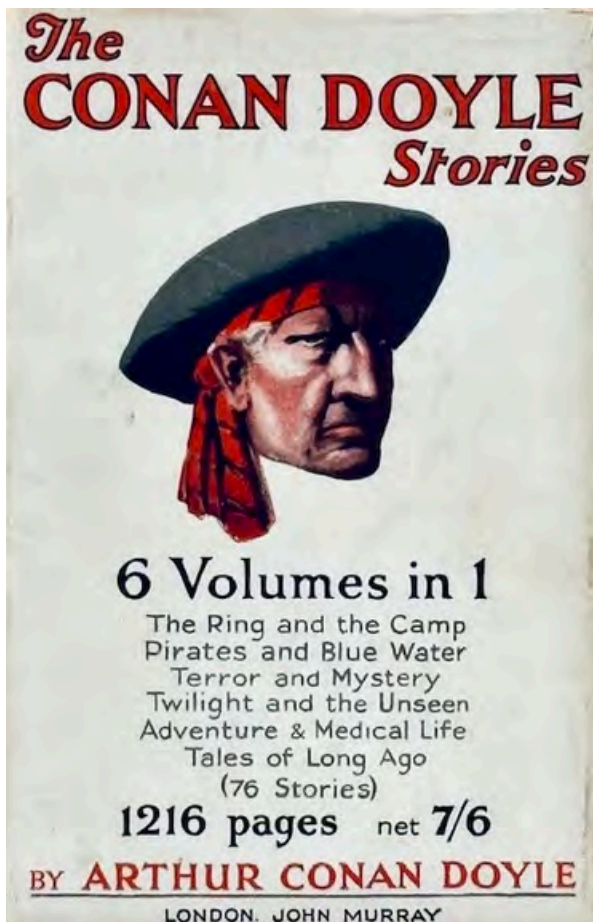
First edition.

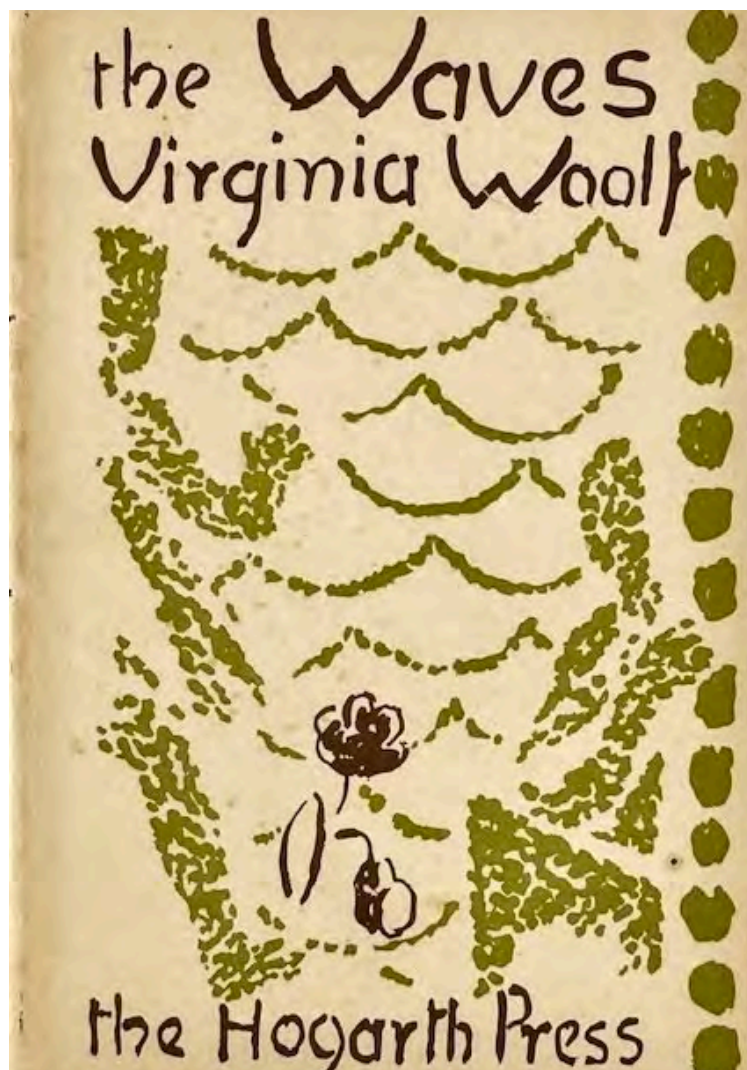
Published by John Murray, London 1929

The Conan Doyle Stories, 6 volumes in 1, by Arthur Conan Doyle.

A first edition collection of six Conan Doyle tales in one volume. Original boards and unclipped dust jacket. The rare and correct first edition dust jacket is in very good condition with mild chipping to the edges. There was no accreditation to the illustrator. 8vo 1202pp.

£700





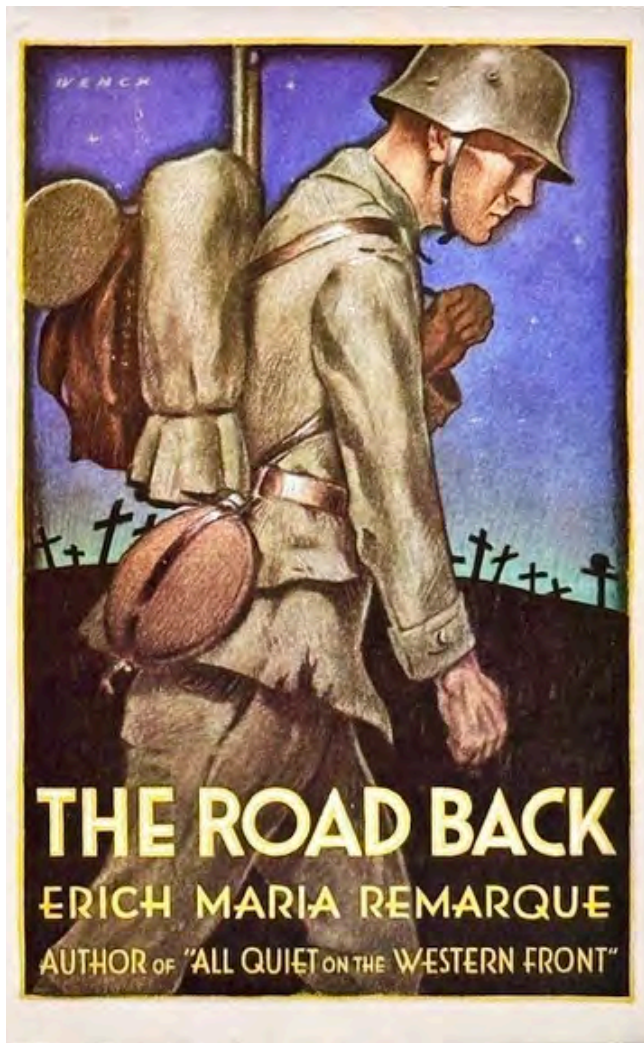
8. The Waves - Virginia Woolf

First edition

Published by The Hogarth Press, London 1931

First edition of *The Waves* with unusually bright and unrestored dust jacket, illustrated by Vanessa Bell, responsible for the designs of most of Woolf's titles. Purple boards with a few tiny indentations in the spine corresponding to nicks in the dust jacket. Contents are clean with foxing to the first pages. The dust jacket is bright with mild foxing on folds. 8vo 325pp

£2800



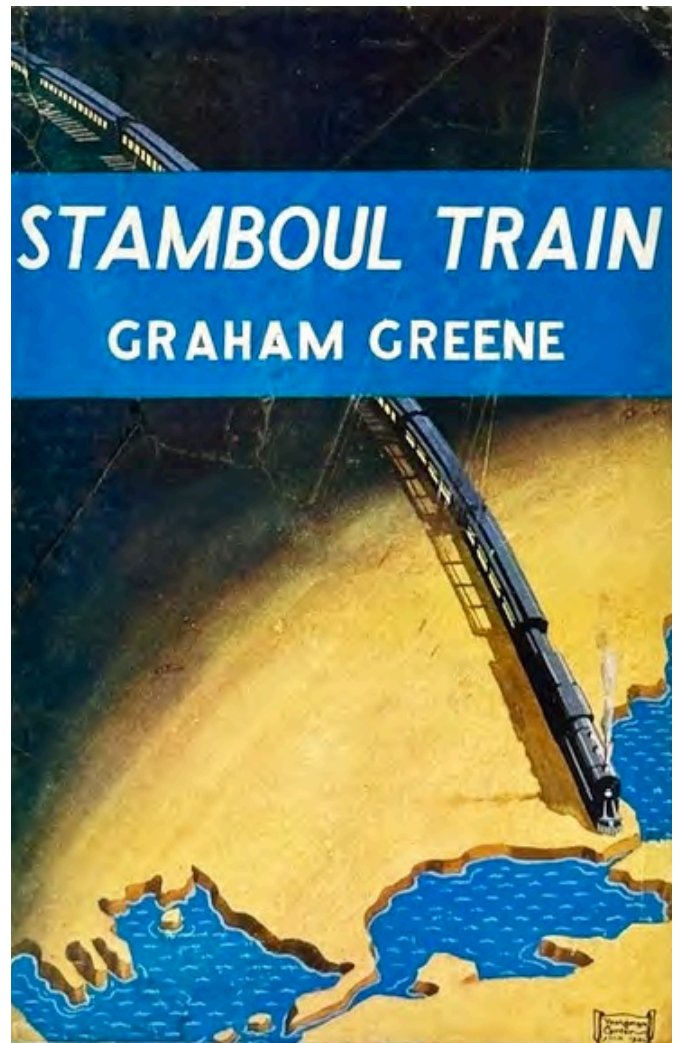
9. **The Road Back by Erich Maria Remarque**

First edition

Published by Little, Brown and Company,
Boston USA 1931

The successor to the war novel, *All Quiet on the Western Front*. *The Road Back* was first published in Germany in April 1931. This first US edition is translated from the German by A. W. Whelen and published in May of the same year. In very good condition. The unclipped dust jacket is bright with minimal wear. A few internally repaired tears on the lower edge of the jacket. Another good example of the more impressive US designs compared to those of the UK. 8vo. 343 pp.

£685



10. **Stamboul Train by Graham Greene**

First edition, second issue

Published by William, Heinemann, London 1932

Stamboul Train is one of Graham Greene's early successful novels. With an unclipped dust jacket. Second issue with "QC Savory" corrected to "Quin Savory". Illustrated by Philip ("Pip") Youngman Carter, a prominent artist and illustrator of jackets for several notable authors at the time.

The dust jacket has professional repairs to tears on the spine and front cover. Small restorations to the head and foot of the spine. Bright colours and clean covers. 8vo 307 pp.

£1,950.00



11. **Meteor - S. N. Behrman**

First edition with dust jacket.
Published by Brentano's, New York, 1930

A first edition of S. N. Behrman's Theatre Guild Play with the rare art deco dust jacket, designed by renowned illustrator, F. M. Walts. The play was first presented in Boston in 1929. The unclipped dust jacket has some tears on the folds, some of which are repaired internally, and small loss on the upper cover. 8vo 178pp

£300



12. **Madame Clapain - Edouard Estaunie**

First edition.
Published by D. Appleton-Century Company, New York, 1933

First US edition of Madame Clapain by French author Edouard Estaunie. The rare Art Deco-designed dust jacket is unclipped with chipping and small loss to the edges. It was illustrated by Delos Palmer and is seen as an attractive example of his work. 8vo 294pp

£250

13. **The Triumph of McLean - George Goodchild**

First edition

Published by Houghton Mifflin Company,
Boston and New York, 1933

A very striking design of this 1933 title has no attributed illustrator. Many dust jackets of the period, including those for Goodchild's Inspector McLean of Scotland Yard series, were unsigned or designed by anonymous in-house designers. The dust jacket has mild chipping and wear and is in very good condition. 8vo 320pp

£165



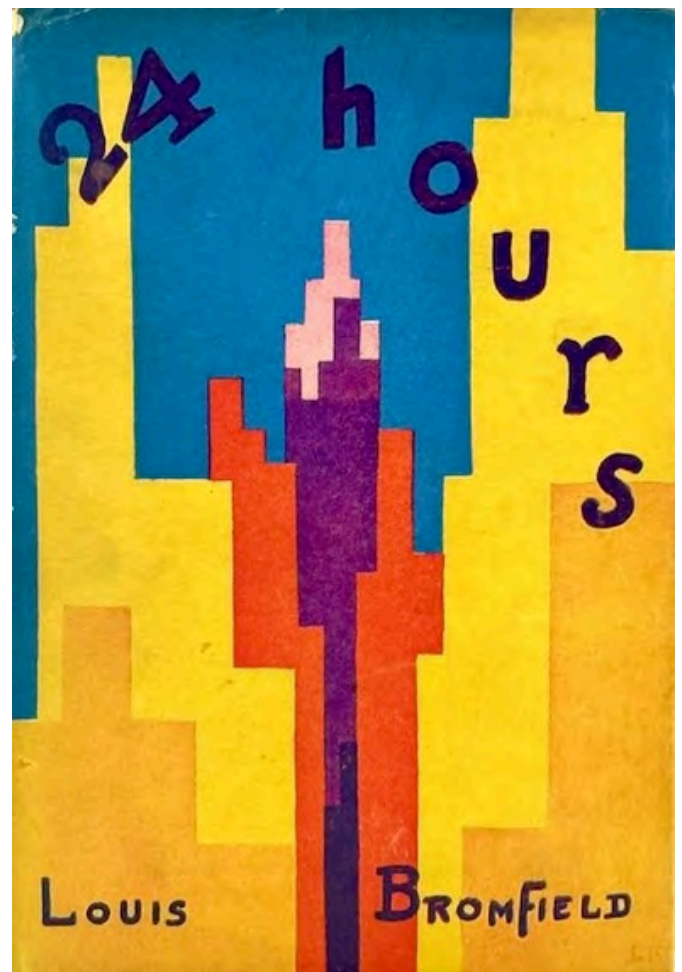
14. **24 Hours - Louis Bromfield**

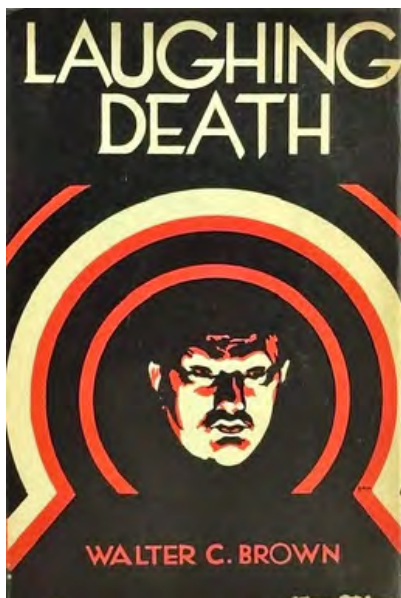
First edition with dust jacket

Published by Frederick A. Stokes Company,
New York, 1930

A 1930 first edition of the novel 24 Hours by Louis Blomfield with the striking Art Deco-designed jacket. No attributed illustrator, as was often the case during this period. Original orange boards with dark grey lettering. The boards have minimal wear and a tiny indentation on the spine. The top edge is green. The unclipped dust jacket has a darkened spine with chipping and small loss to the fold ends. 8vo 463pp

£175





15. **Laughing Death - Walter C. Brown**

First edition

Published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia
1932

A first edition of Walter C Brown's detective novel, Laughing Death, following the investigation of Detective-Sergeant Harper set in Chinatown. In very good condition with an original 'art deco' designed dust jacket by an unknown illustrator using initials EMK. Section of loss to the rear of the dust jacket. Clean contents. Not price clipped showing \$2.00. 8vo 317pp

£195

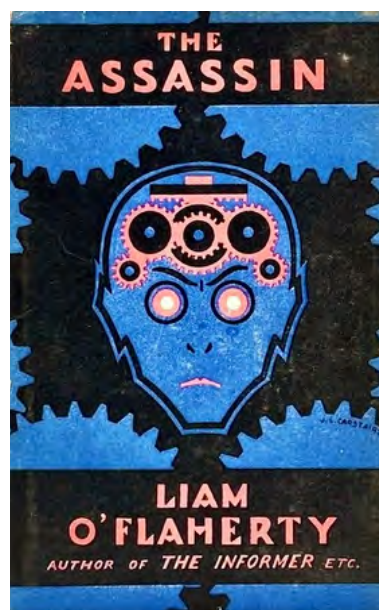
16. **The Assassin - Liam O'Flaherty**

First edition

Published by Jonathan Cape, London 1928

The Assassin, with highly collectable dust jacket illustrated by J. L. Carstairs. An unclipped dust jacket with chipping, small tears and loss on the spine ends. Very Good condition. 8vo 286 pp

£175



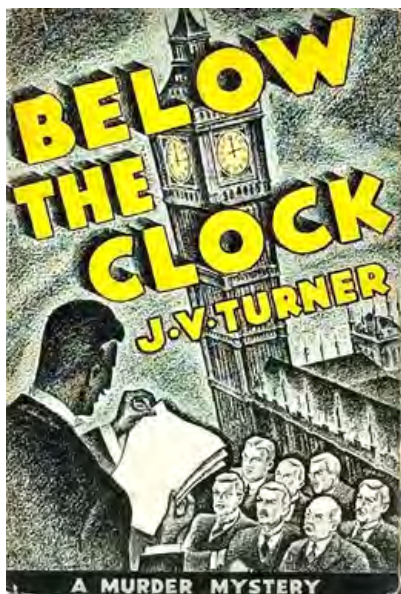
17. **Below the Clock by J. V Turner**

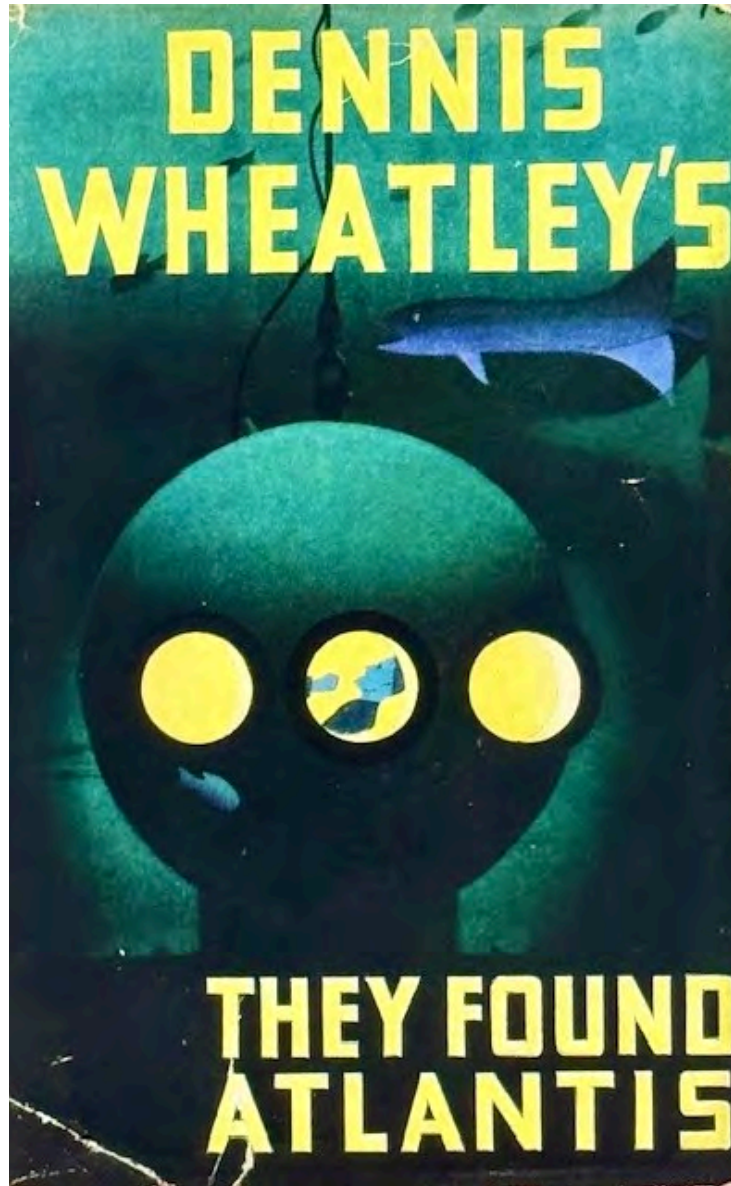
First edition.

Published by D. Appleton - Century Company, New York,
1936

A US 1st edition of this 1936 murder mystery, Below the Clock, written by J V Turner. Follows the investigations of Inspector Ripple of Scotland Yard. A 'The Tired Business Man's Library' title with the scull and dagger logo printed on both the jacket and cloth board. Unclipped dust jacket with chipping to the spine ends is not attributed to an illustrator.

£125





18. **They Found Atlantis - Dennis Wheatley**

First edition signed by the author
Published by Hutchinson, London 1935

£2050

A first edition of *They Found Atlantis* with unclipped dust jacket signed and inscribed by the author. Illustrated by Diana Young, Wheatley's step-daughter, who also designed the endpaper illustrations. The bright dust jacket has internal repairs and small loss to the top spine edge and front fold. Light edge wear. 8vo 344pp plus 40 pages of publishers advertisements

19. **Week-end Wodehouse - P. G Wodehouse**

First edition

Published by Herbert Jenkins, London 1939

Week-end Wodehouse includes an introduction by Hilaire Belloc. Contents contain the popular excerpts from the novels, essays and humorous articles that had not been previously printed in book form. The unclipped dust jacket, 7/6d net, is bright and very clean, designed by 'Kerr'. This is the less common first state with the charactature of Adolf Hitler on the rear. Some closed and open tears on the spine ends and piece missing from the top left edge. Non visible internal repairs on the tears. Wear on the extremities. 8v0 512 pp

£295



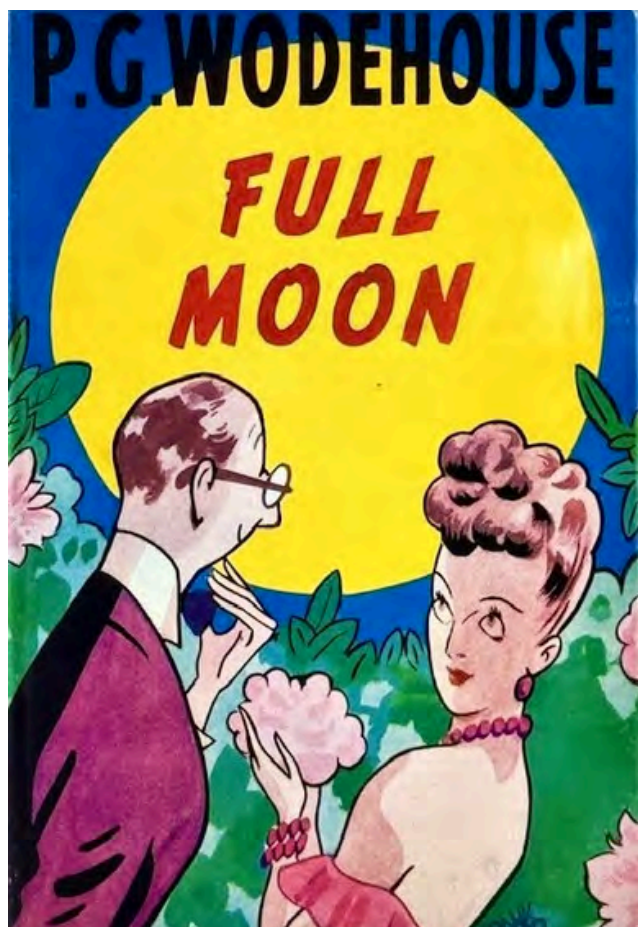
20. **Full Moon by P. G. Wodehouse**

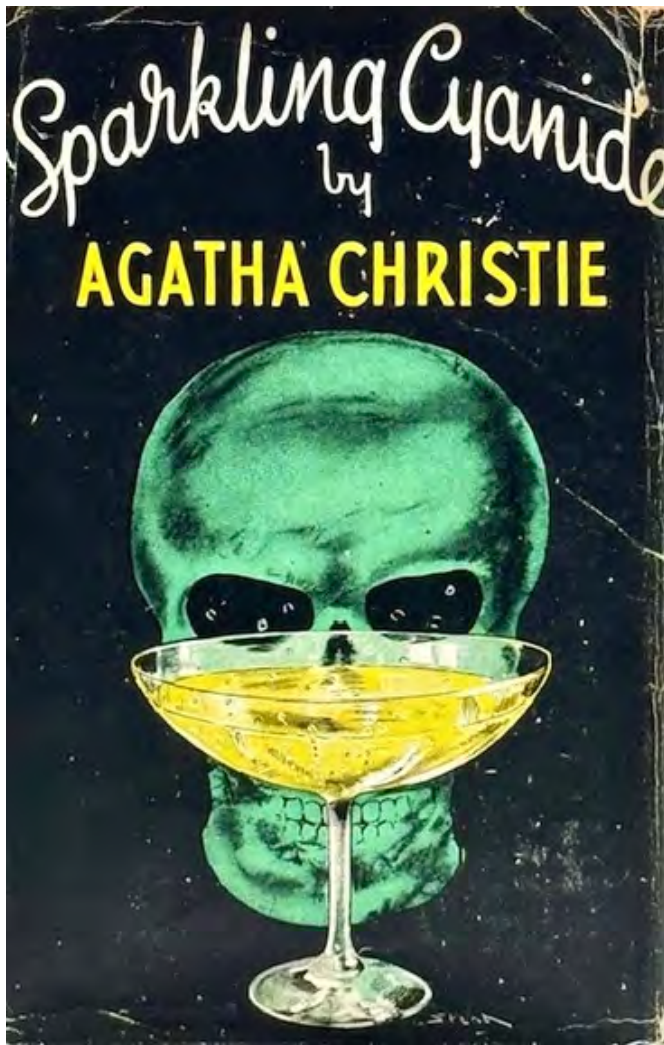
First edition, first printing

Published by Herbert Jenkins, London 1947

Full Moon in very good condition. The dust jacket cartoon style illustration is typical of Wodehouse books, illustrated here by Frank Ford. Ford handled most of Wodehouse jacket illustrations in the late 40's and early 50's. The Jacket is bright with a good condition spine. The corners and edges are very lightly rubbed with 0.5cm tiny tear on the bottom front edge of the cover. Small patch of browning on front flap. 8vo 252 printed pages

£160



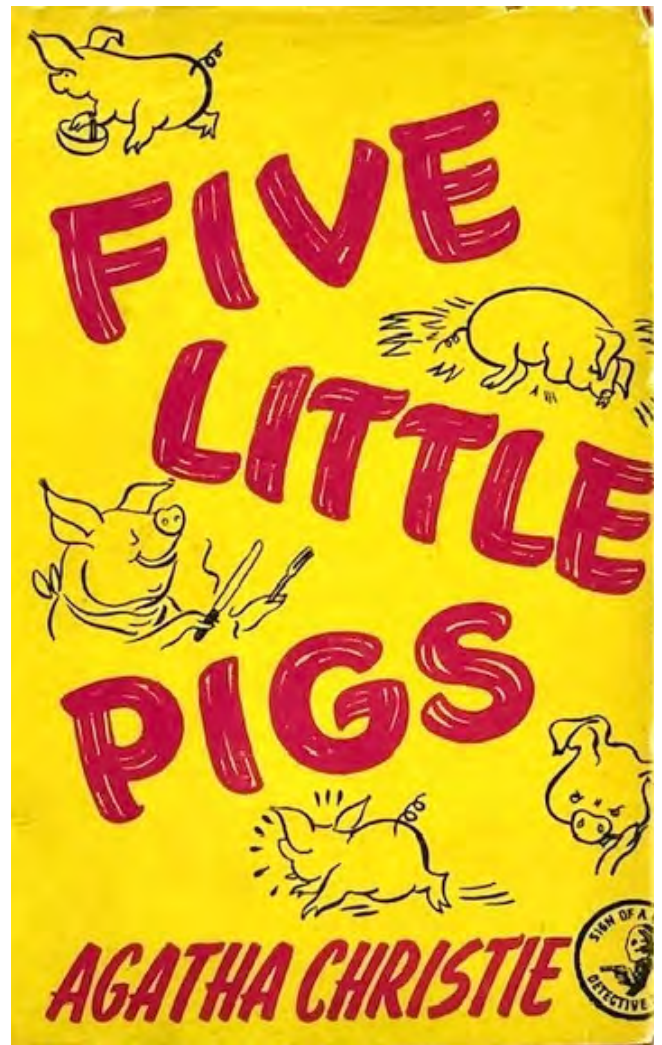


21. **Sparkling Cyanide - Agatha Christie**

First edition, first printing
Published for The Crime Club by Collins 1946

A first edition of Agatha Christie's detective drama, *Sparkling Cyanide*. Complete with iconic unclipped dust jacket, illustrated by Leslie Stead, best known for his work on the Biggles series of books. Rubbed dust jacket with chipping, small tears and loss the spine ends. 8vo 160pp

£530



22. **Five Little Pigs - Agatha Christie**

First edition
Published for The Crime Club by Collins,
London 1942

A scarce first edition of the crime thriller, *Five Little Pigs*. The bright, price clipped dust jacket, illustrated by R.M. Turvey, has chipping and loss to the spine affecting the lettering. Internal tape repair on the upper edge of the dust jacket. Ruth Turvey was a prolific illustrator of children's literature and book jackets in the mid 20th century. 8vo 192pp

£530

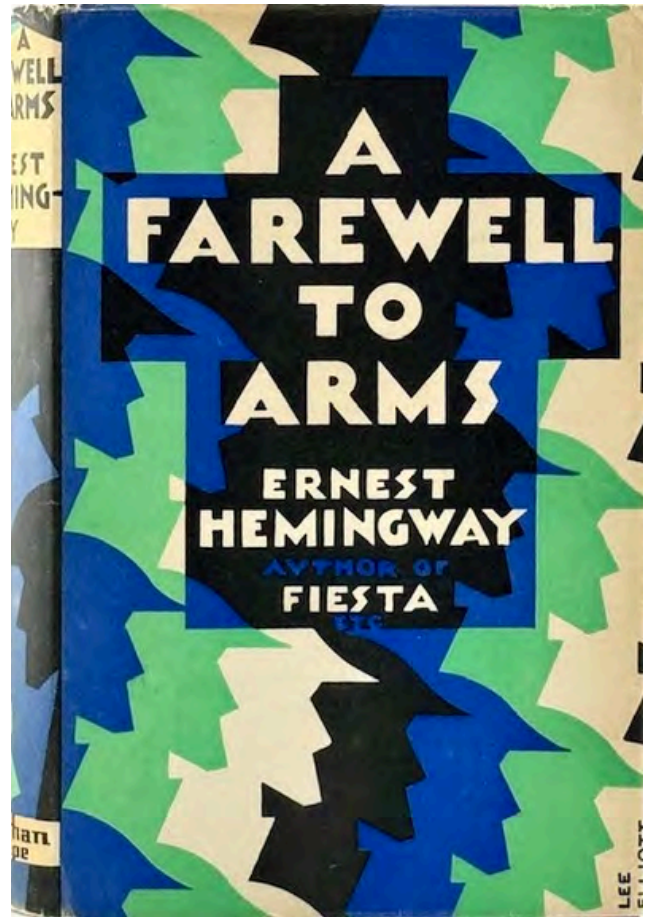
23. **Farewell to Arms - Ernest Hemingway**

First edition, second issue.

Published by Jonathan Cape, London 1929

A first edition, second issue of A Farewell to Arms with unclipped dust jacket. Lee-Elliott was the illustrator, known for his significant contribution to the Art Deco and Modernist movements, and an enduring legacy in corporate branding and poster art. Contains the correct spelling of "serious" on page 66. 8vo 349 pp

£1000



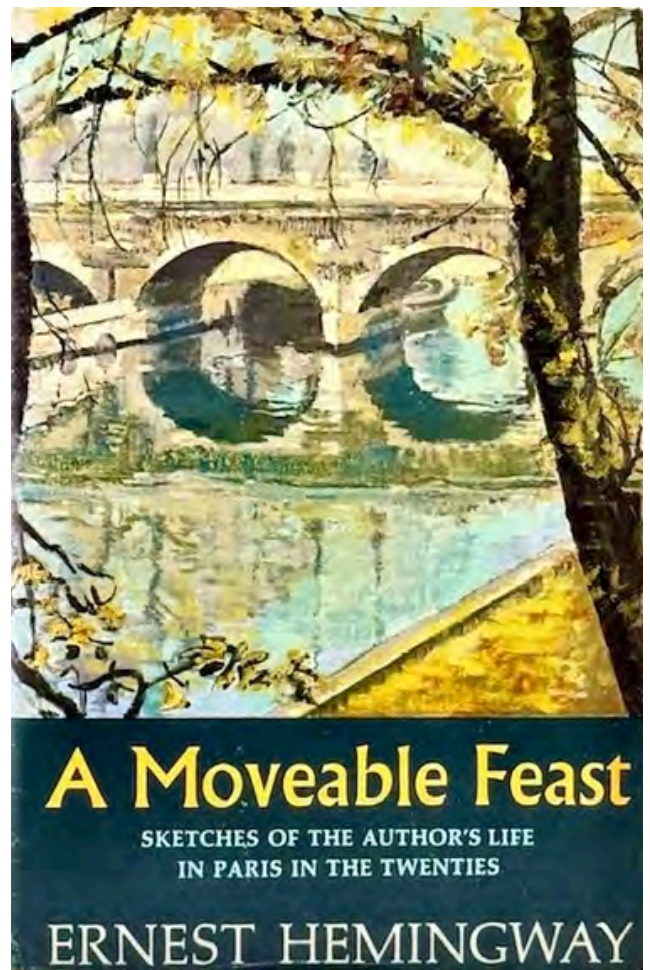
24. **A moveable Feast - Ernest Hemingway**

First edition

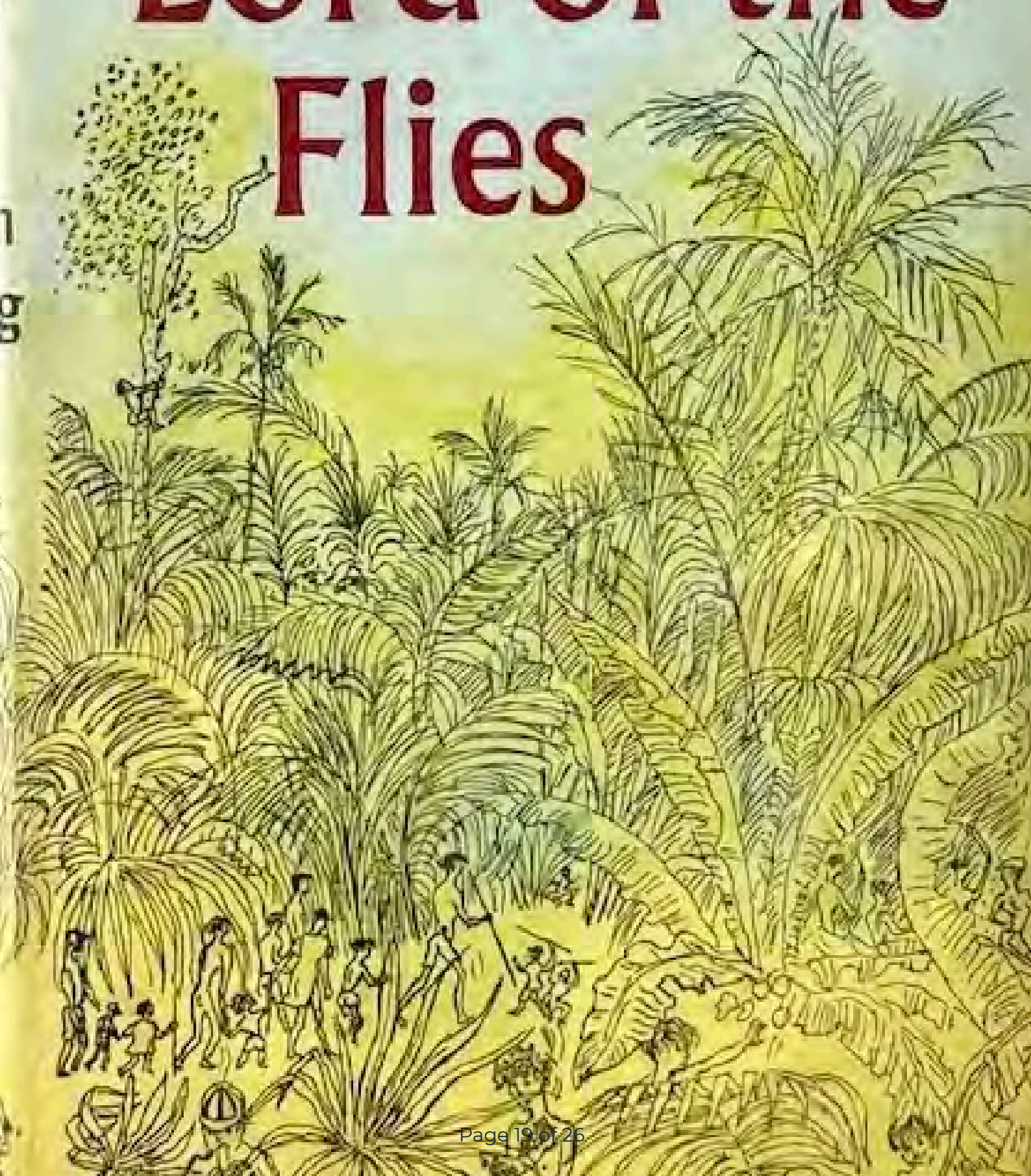
Published by Ernest Scribner's Sons, New York, 1964

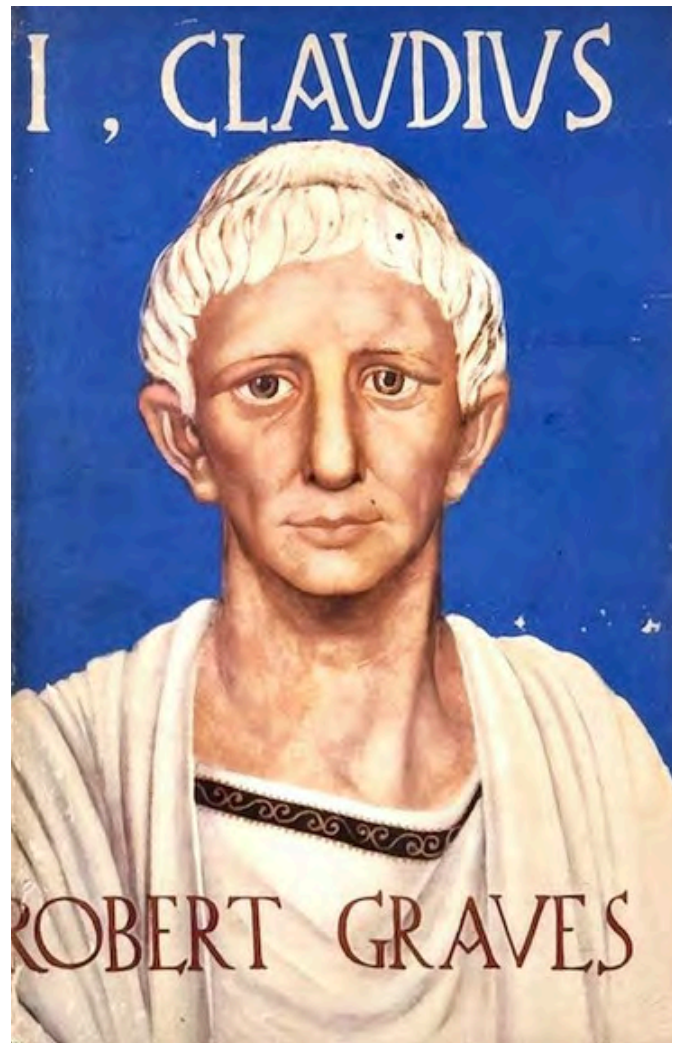
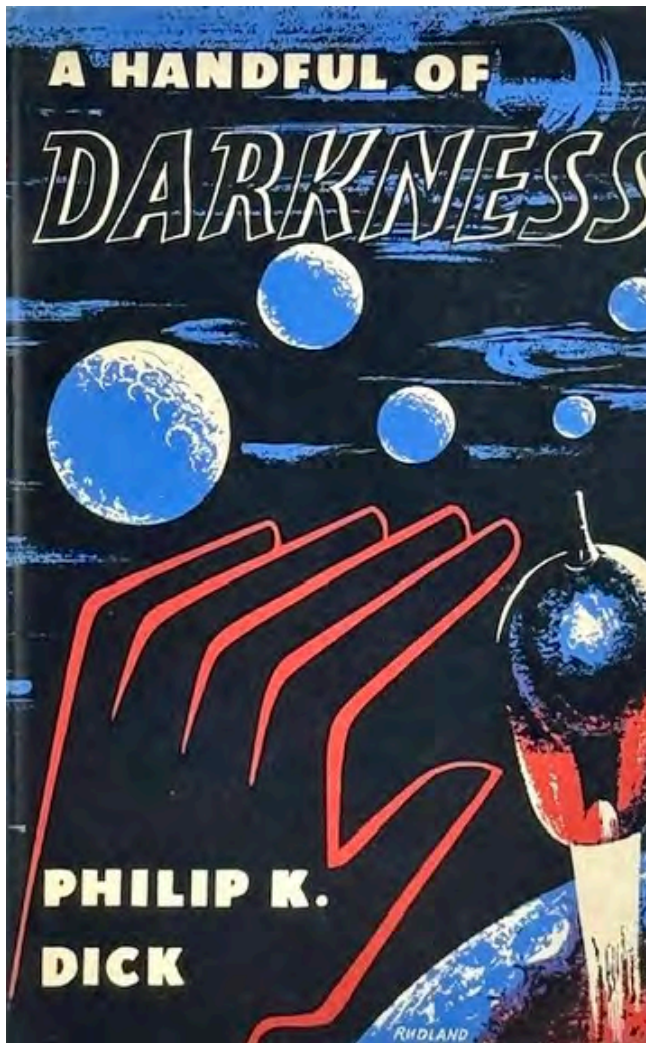
A more modern but traditional cover design, near fine first edition of A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway. Complete with dust jacket. Mint condition contents with six pages of black and white photographs. The dust jacket is an image of the Pont Neuf in Paris by the artist Hildegard Rath, unclipped with minimal wear to the edges. A lovely find. 8vo 211pp

£675



William Golding
Lord of the Flies





25. **The Lord of the Flies - William Golding**

First edition

Published by Faber and Faber Ltd, London 1954

A first edition copy of this classic novel, Lord of the Flies. Included is a loose card with the author's signature. The jacket is clean and bright, professionally repaired, illustrated by Anthony Gross, one of the leading etchers of the 20th century. 8vo 248pp

£6250

26. **A Handfull of Darkness - Philip K. Dick**

First edition

Published by Rich and Cowan, London 1955

A very good first edition of A Handful of Darkness with original first state blue boards. Unclipped dust jacket without the listing of "World of Chance" to the rear panel. Few light marks on rear panel and nick on lower edge. 8vo 234pp

£2000

27. **I, Claudius - Robert Graves**

First edition

Published by Arthur Barker, London 1934

The dust jacket was illustrated by John Aldridge, a quintessential landscape painter, so this and the sequel 'Claudius the God' were a diversion for his good friend, William Golding. 8vo 494 pp

£1250

28. **The Silver Chair - C. S. Lewis**

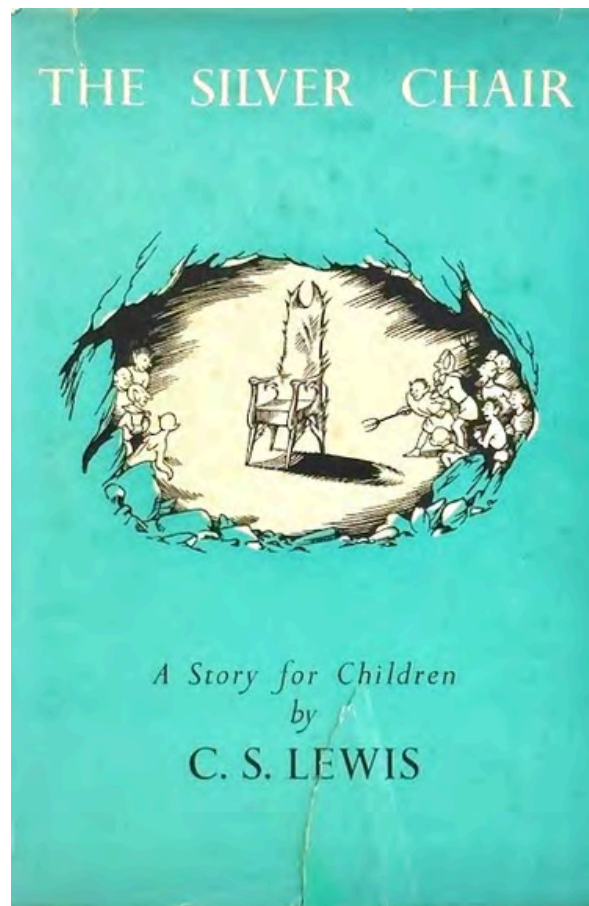
First edition

Published by Geoffrey Bles, London 1953

A first edition classic, The Silver Chair complete with unclipped dust jacket. Illustrated by Pauline Baynes. Baynes illustrated all the Narnia series for Lewis, as well as being the favourite illustrator of J. R. R. Tolkien.

The dust jacket is bright with darkening of the spine. Lightly rubbed. Piece missing for the rear cover affecting the title. 5 cm and 2 cm tear on the front page. Chipped spine ends with tiny piece missing from the foot of the spine. This is perhaps the hardest jacket of the series to find in any condition due to the fragility of the paper. 8vo 217 pp

£5050



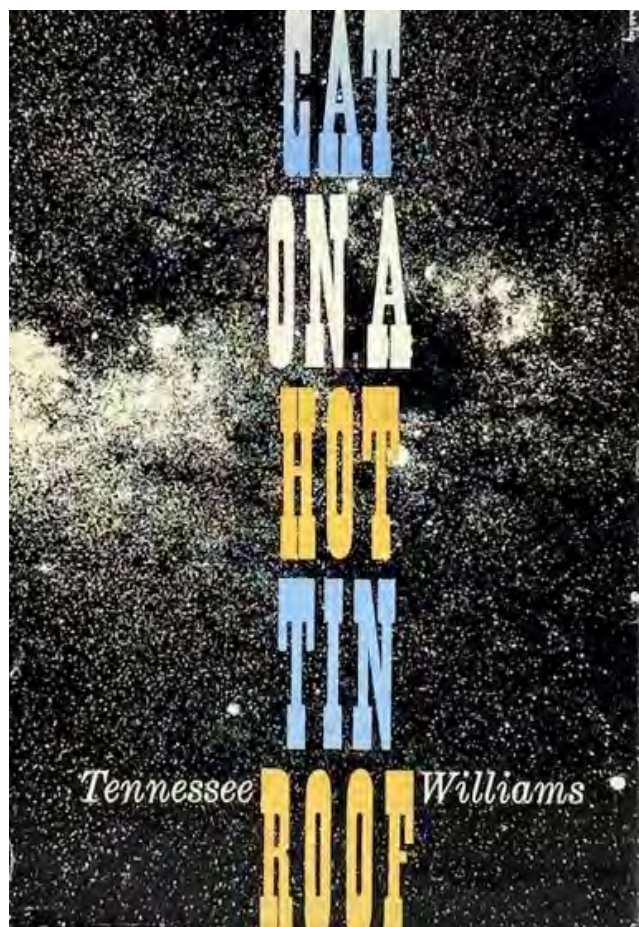
29. **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams**

Signed first edition

Published by New Directions, New York 1955

A first edition, first state copy of the third act of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof as Williams originally wrote it. The appendix gives the third act as he worked out during the pre-Broadway try outs, including the controversial "elephant story". Without the mention of New York times on the copyright page. Rare signed and inscribed by the author on a tipped in leaf at the front of the book. A first issue unclipped dust jacket designed by the acclaimed Alvin Lustig, who revolutionised jacket design in the 1940's and 50s. Dust jacket with chipping and minor loss to the edges. 8vo. 197pp

£1550



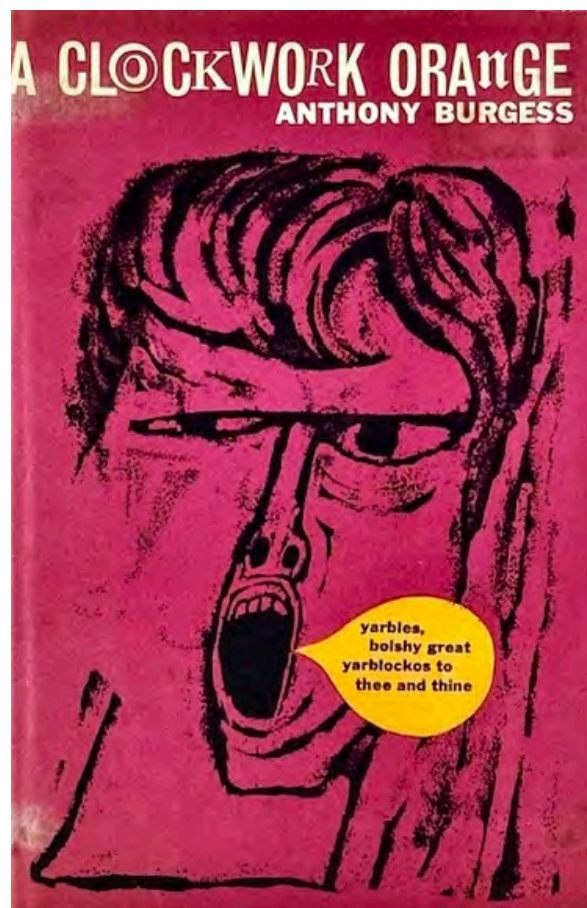
30. **A Clockwork Orange - Anthony Burgess**

First edition

Published by Heinemann, London 1962

A first edition, first state of A Clockwork Orange - dust jacket with wide flaps. The unclipped dust jacket was illustrated by the Australian designer Barry Trengove and important to distinguish from the 'cog-eyed' Penguin paperback design of David Pelham. Much sought after, the jacket has tape residue and some fading. 8vo 196pp

£2000



31. **Doctor Zhivago by Boris Pasternak**

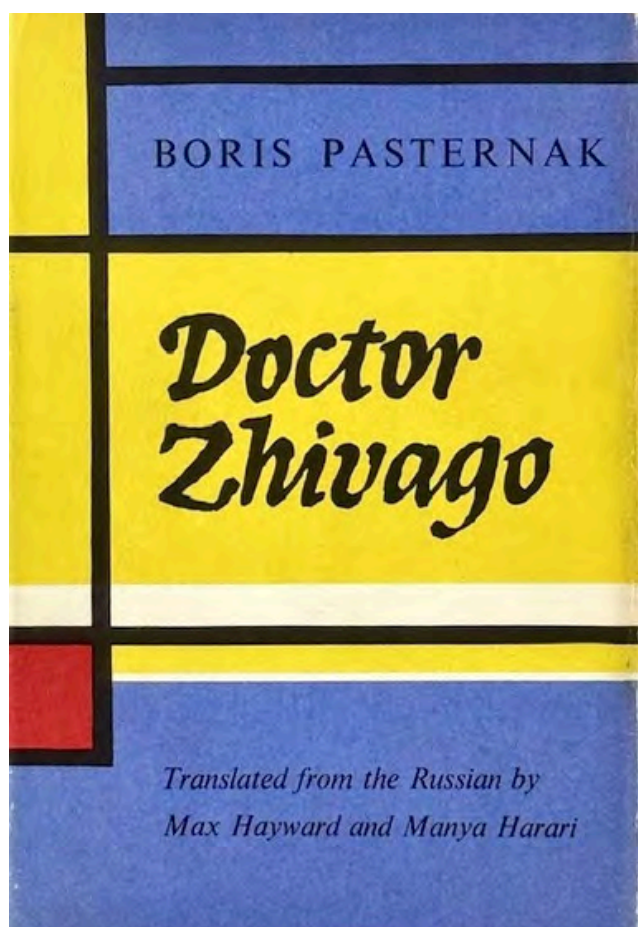
First edition

Published by Collins and Harvill Press, London 1958

Translated from Russian by Max Hayward and Manya Harari. Including the Poems of Zhivago at the rear of the book. Complete with unclipped dust jacket.

The bright and distinctive dust jacket is surprisingly not credited to the illustrator, unusual by the 1950s. In very good condition, unclipped with only very slight chipping. 8vo 510 pp

£550



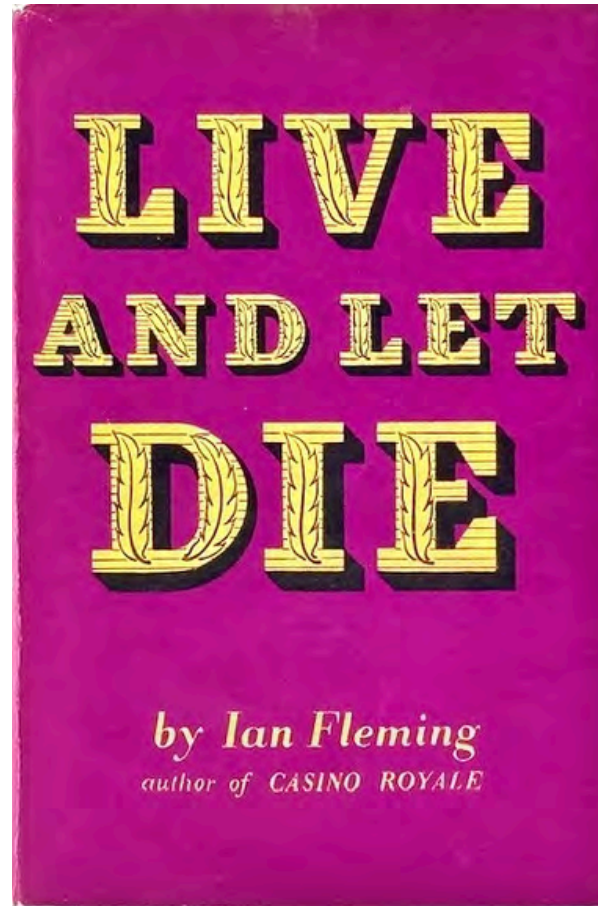
32. Live and Let Die - Ian Fleming

First edition

Published by Jonathan Cape, London 1954

Live and Let Die with a second state dust jacket. There are three states for the first edition jackets. This is the second state with "Jacket devised by author, and executed by Kenneth Lewis" located centered and a gap below the text on the front flap. The first state has no mention of the illustrator, the third the accreditation is tight to the text. Lightly dulled purple/pink jacket with yellow titles but in very good condition. Chipping on the top of the spine of the jacket. Corners lightly worn. The dust jacket is very slightly shorter than the book. Price 10s 6d. net on jacket flap located to the front and rear flaps. Rear panel has reviews for Casino Royale. 8vo 240 pp

£5300



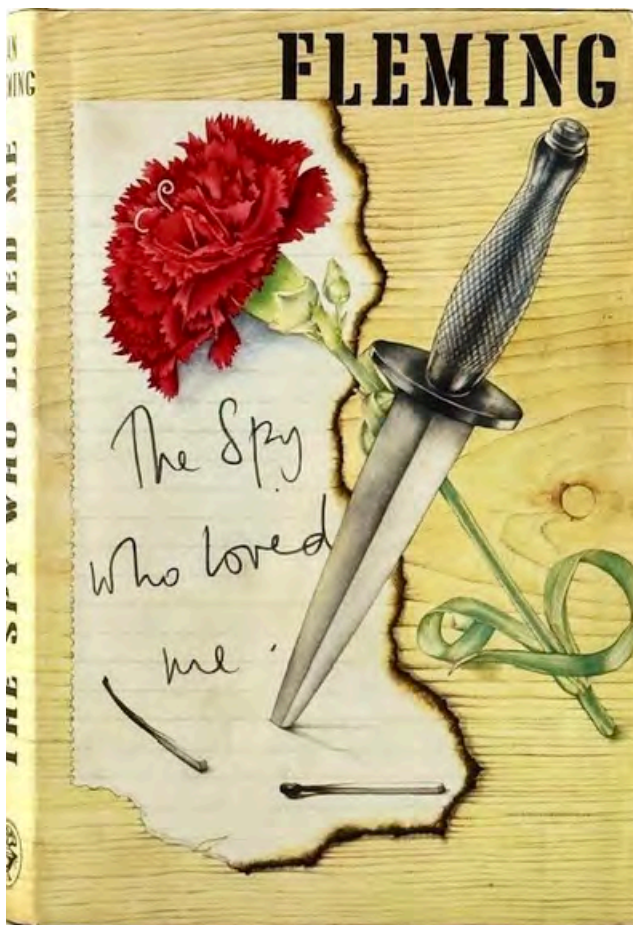
33. The Spy Who Loved Me - Ian Fleming

First edition with signed photograph

Published by Jonathan Cape, London 1962

A first edition of The Spy Who Loved Me. Complete with a signed photograph of the actress, Caroline Munro, who played Naomi in the film of the book released in 1977. The photograph depicts Naomi piloting Stromberg's helicopter about to shoot the White Lotus of the James Bond 007 character played by Roger Moore. The dust jacket was illustrated by the more prominent of Fleming's designers, Richard Chopping, who illustrated 9 of Fleming's Bond books with his highly recognisable style. Bright condition with only a few small stains. 8vo 221p.

£650





**GOLD
FINGER**
IAN
FLEMING

007



34. Complete James Bond Centenary Series

First editions, First Printings
 Penguin Books, London 2008

The set marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ian Fleming and although recently published, they are already highly collectable. This is not only due to the distinctive and colourful jacket designs by the English born, US based Michael Gillette but also due to the low print run of only 4000 each in homage to the original low print run of the first edition Casino Royale.

Gillette was a renowned sleeve art designer for iconic Britpop bands such as Saint Etienne and Elastica, then the likes Paul McCartney after moving to San Fransisco.

The set is complete and all in near fine condition.

£1450

