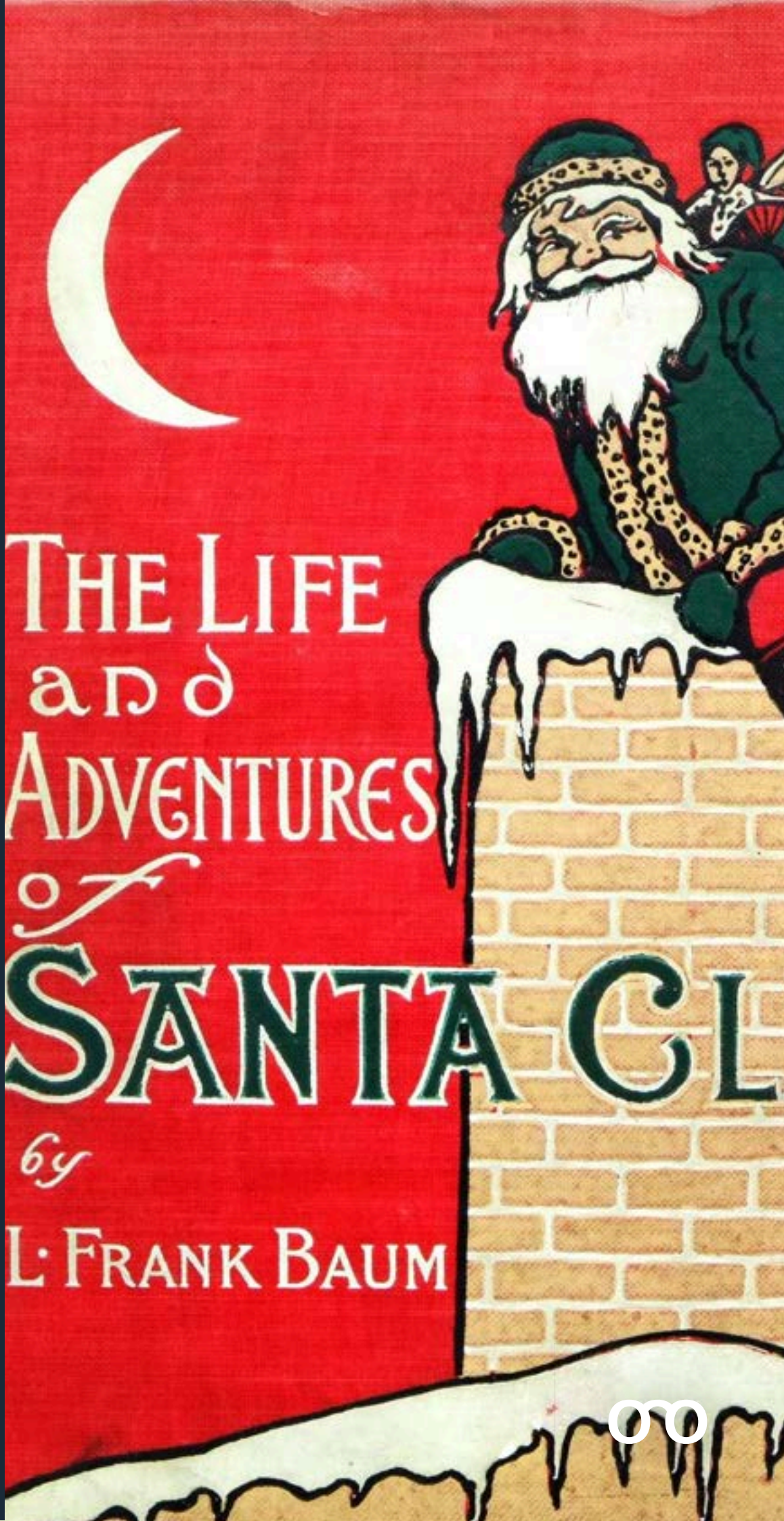
Christmas
Gift Ideas
2026



RARE &
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BOOKS

The Gift of a Remarkable Book

Some gifts are opened, enjoyed and forgotten. Others become treasured possessions — objects that gather meaning, history and value with every passing year.

This Christmas, Rare & Antique Books presents a carefully curated selection of exceptional books chosen not simply for their literary importance, but for their rarity, condition, provenance, beauty and place within the history of the written word.

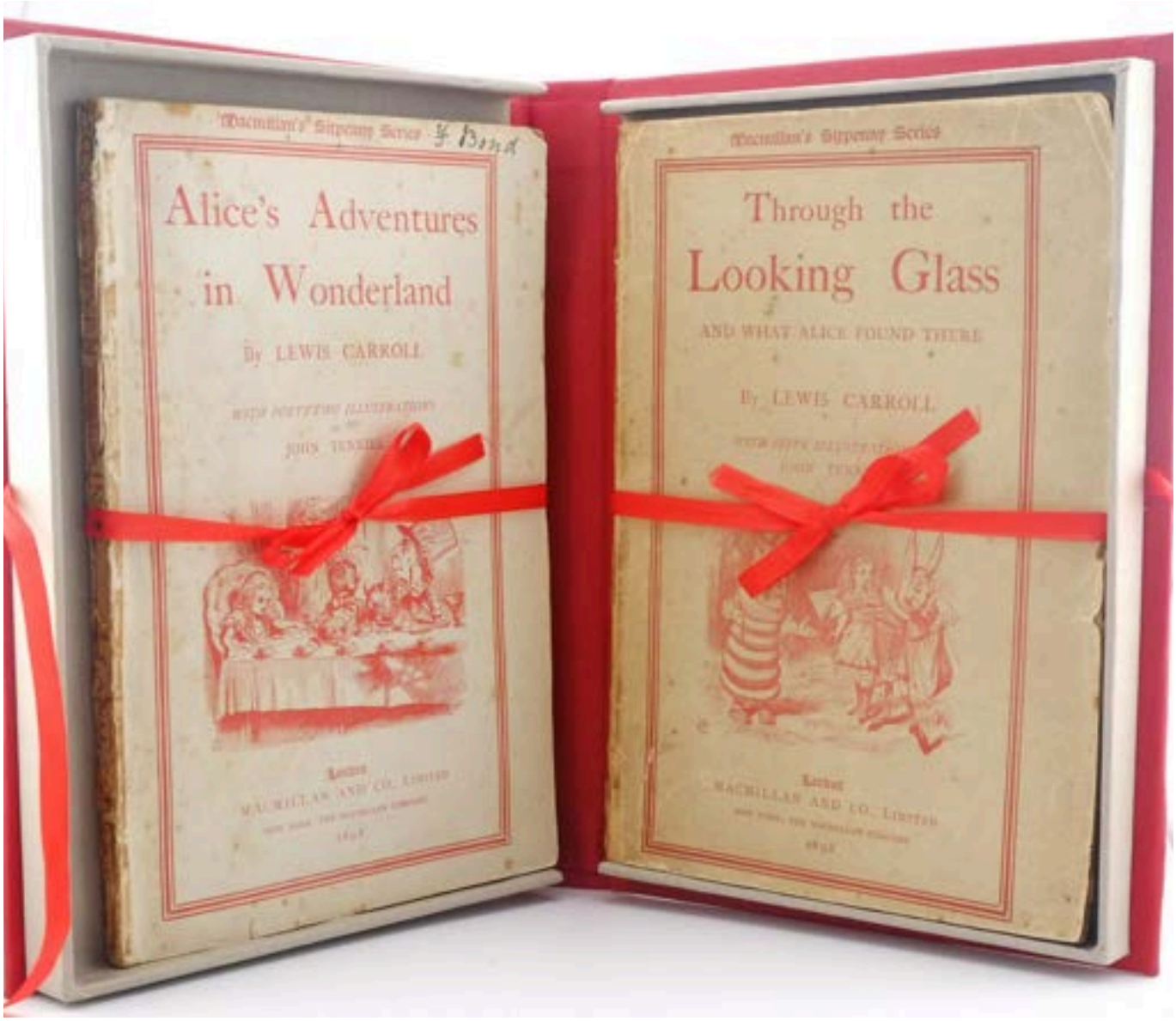
We have selected books for a range of tastes and occasions — from accessible examples for distinctive presents, to important rarities worthy of the most discerning collector.

Whether you are buying for a lover of literature or someone who would appreciate a beautiful gift, we hope this catalogue provides inspiration.

This Christmas, give a gift with a past — and a future.

Each image has a link to the book on our website.

For enquiries, email



Alice and Through the Looking Glass - Lewis Carroll
First Paperback Editions

£550

First “Sixpenny” edition
Published by Macmillan and Co Limited, London 1898

By the 1890s, publishers began issuing cheaper mass-market formats so children and schools could buy classics at low prices, which led to the Macmillan sixpenny paperbacks.

Two volumes, issued simultaneously with paper wrappers and original John Tenniel illustrations. Historically significant not only because they were the first widely distributed paperback versions of the Alice books but also because they were among the earliest examples of mass-market children’s literature in paperback form.

Surviving copies in original wrappers are scarce. Rare to find with spine in place albeit some loss on the Alice. . Housed in a beautiful custom made box for the pair. 8vo

JANE EYRE:

An Autobiography.

BY

CURRER BELL.

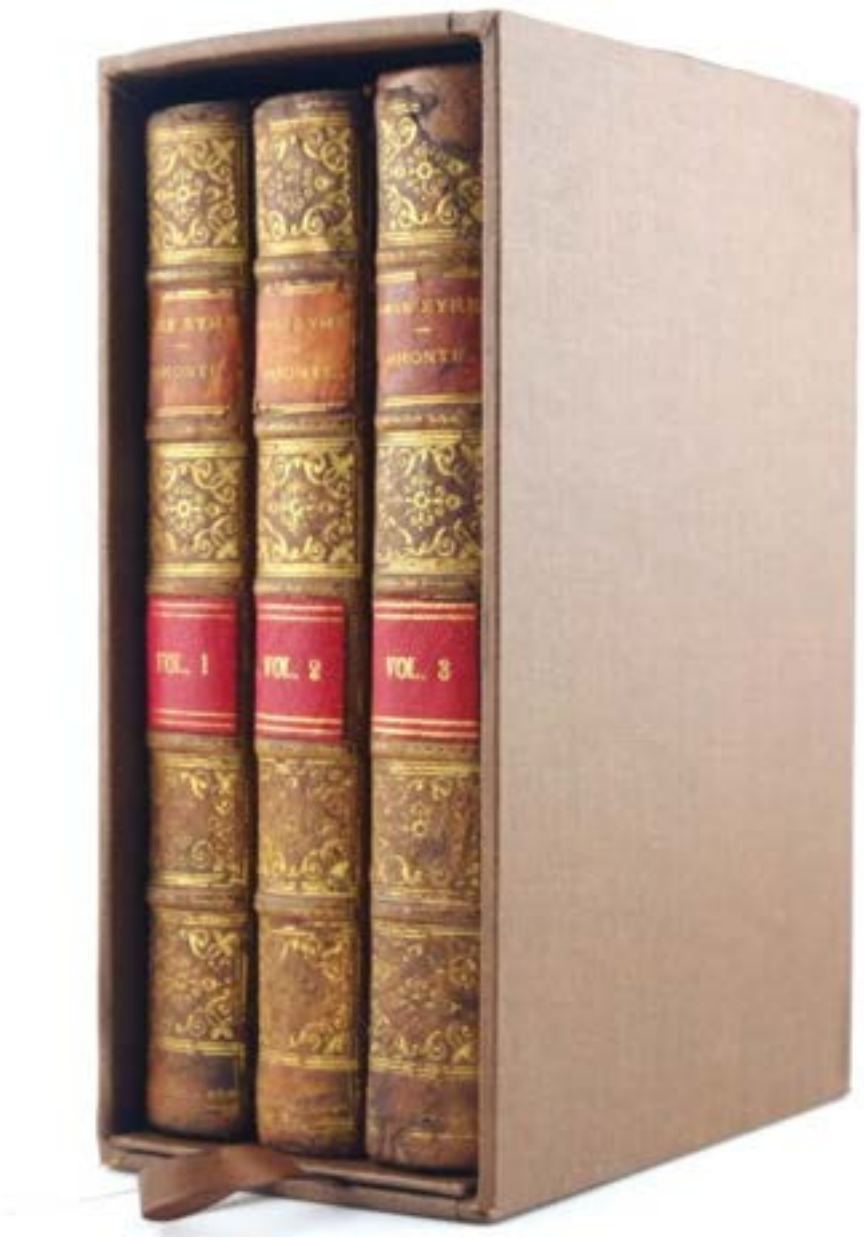
IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:
SMITH, ELDER AND CO., CORNHILL.

1848.

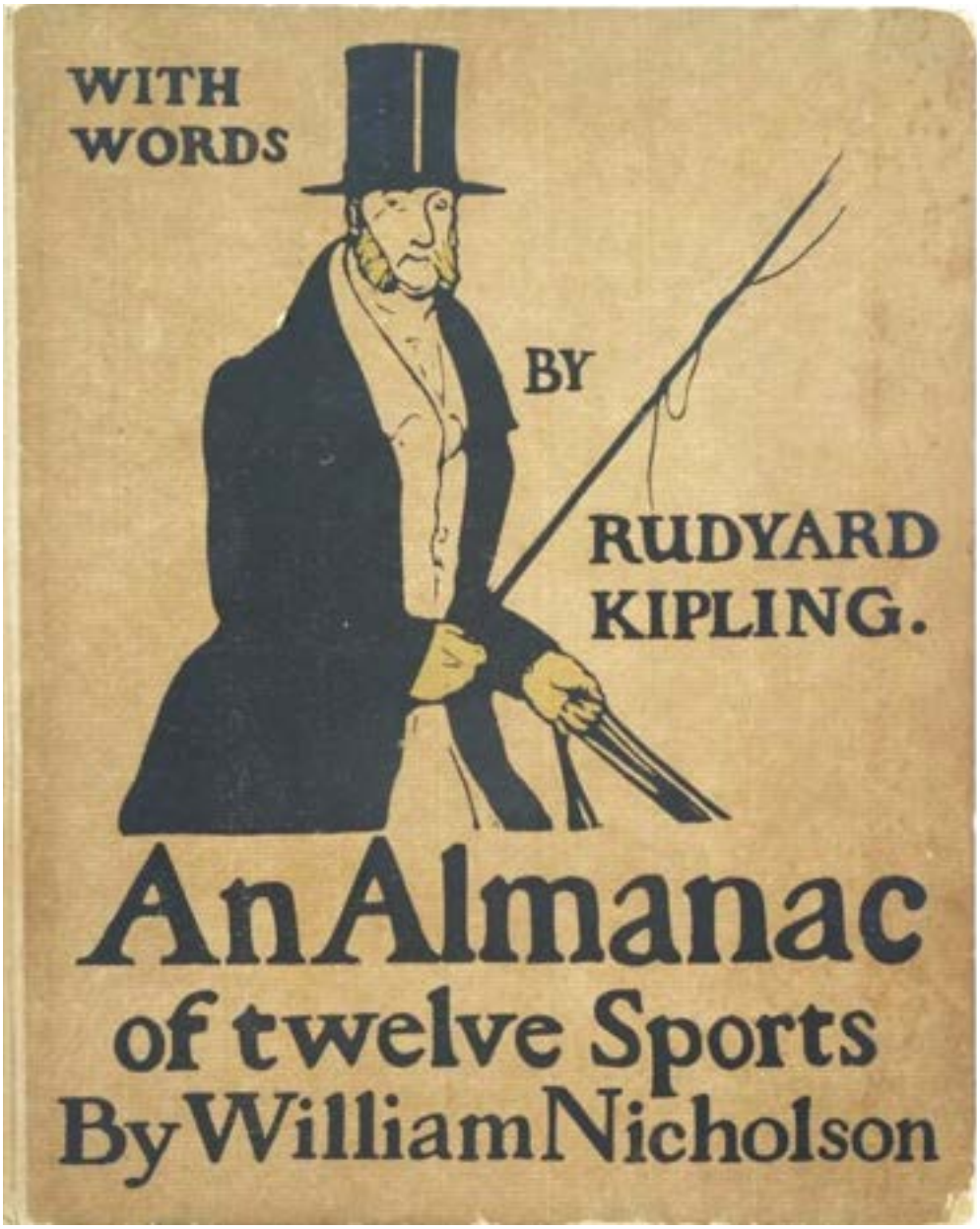


Jane Eyre by Currer Bell (Charlotte Bronte)

£9,000.00

Third edition - Published by Smith, Elder & Co, London 1848

Three volumes of the third edition of Jane Eyre, published the year after the first edition. All in very good condition with quarter leather raised bands to the spines. Complete with custom made box and pull out slider. Spotting within the clean, toned text. Some professional restoration of Volume 3 with re-laid spine. Slight splitting of the spine on Volume 2. A lovely find. 8vo.

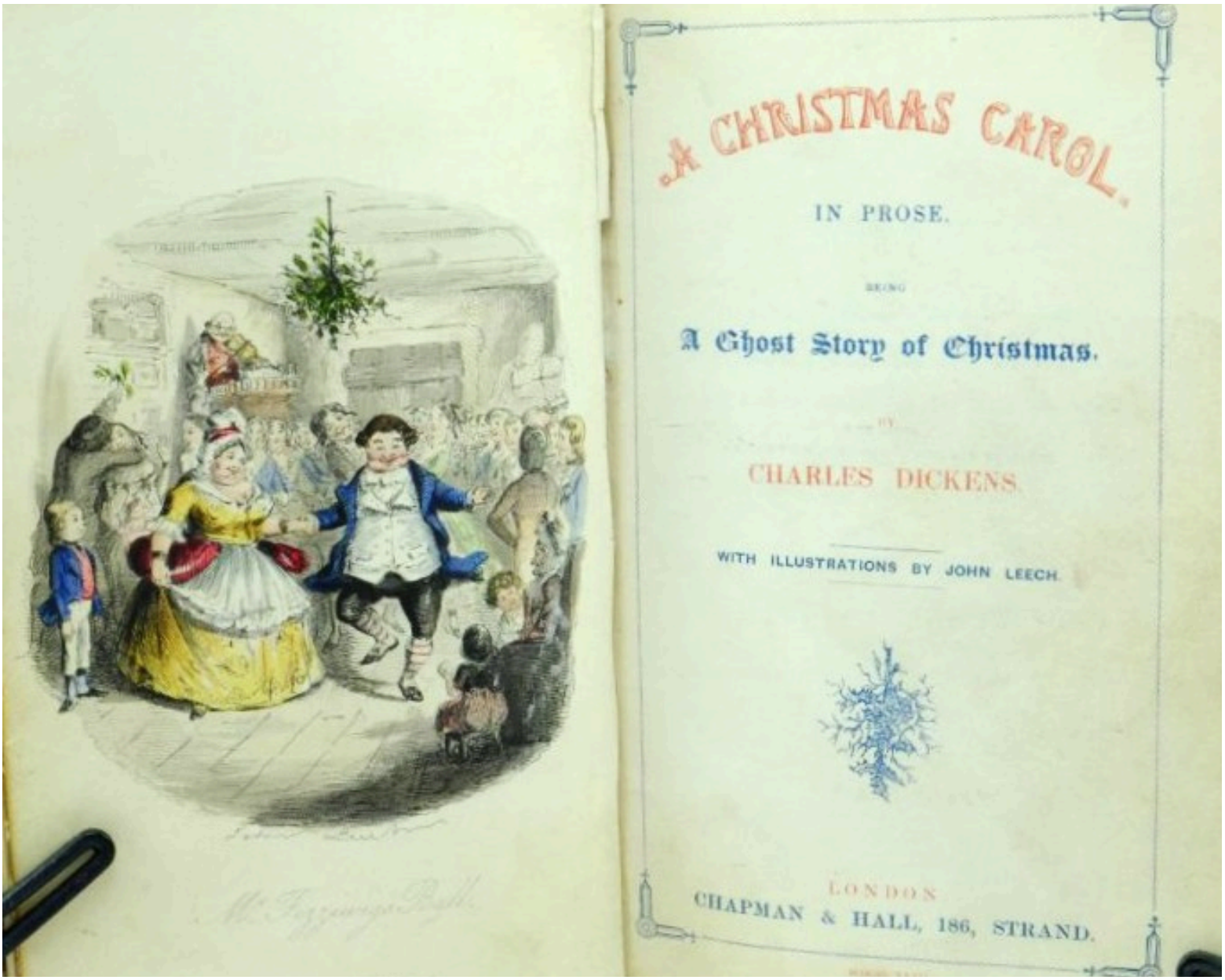


An Almanac of Twelve Sports by Rudyard Kipling

£750.00

First edition - Published by Macmillan, London 1898

Illustrated with twelve colour plates for each month of the year by William Nicholson. An Almanac of Twelve Sports written by Rudyard Kipling. Illustrations of several horse riding activities, fishing, cricket, archery, shooting, golf, boxing and skating. This first edition is in very good condition and a lovely find. Paper boards with minimal wear. Browned and lightly spotted end pages. Folio 13 x 10"



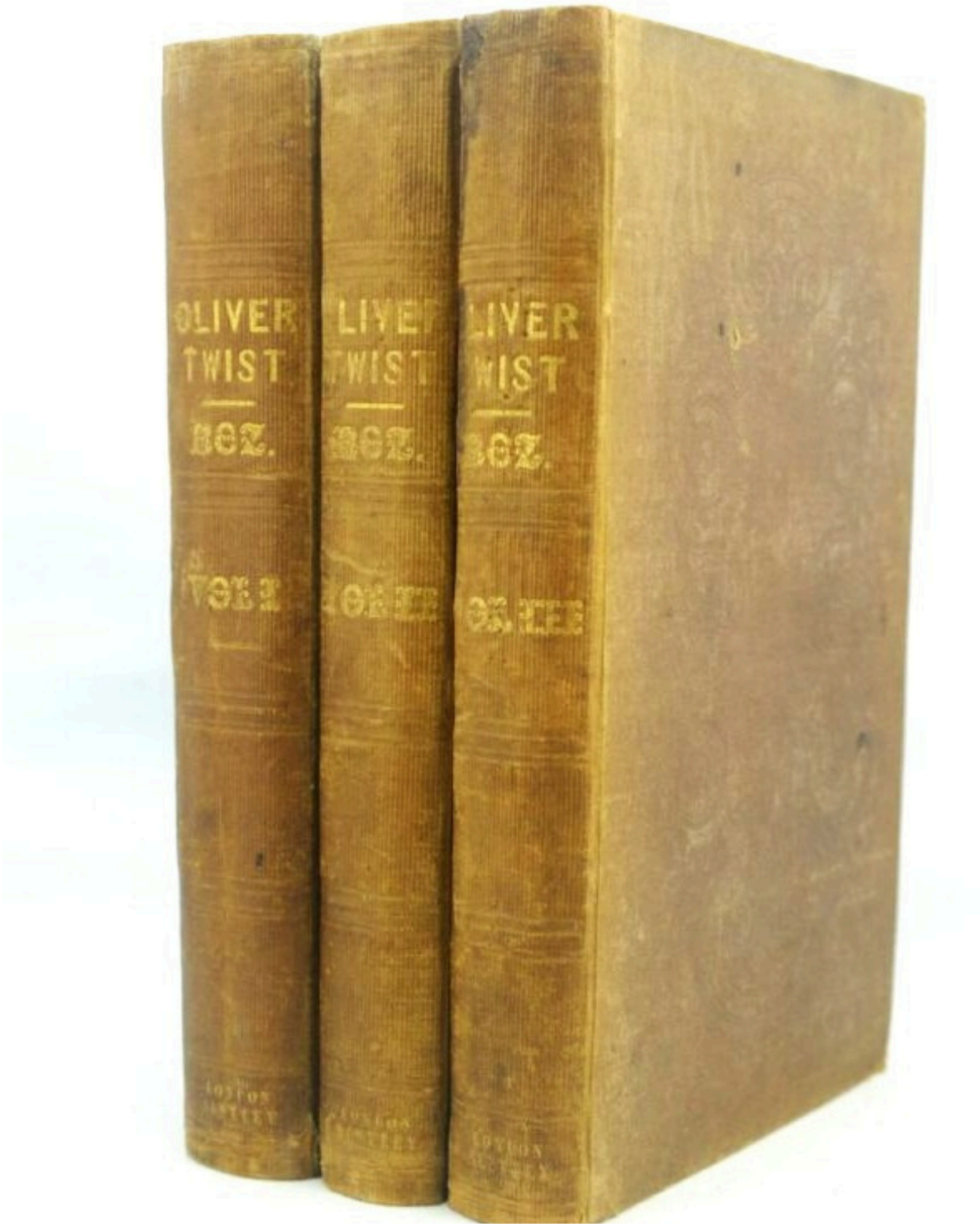
A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens
£10,000.00

First edition, first state - Chapman & Hall, London 1843

A rare first edition, believed to be with an original publisher's special binding. Spine with gilt lettering, top quarter missing (un-repaired so buyer can choose how they wish to proceed).

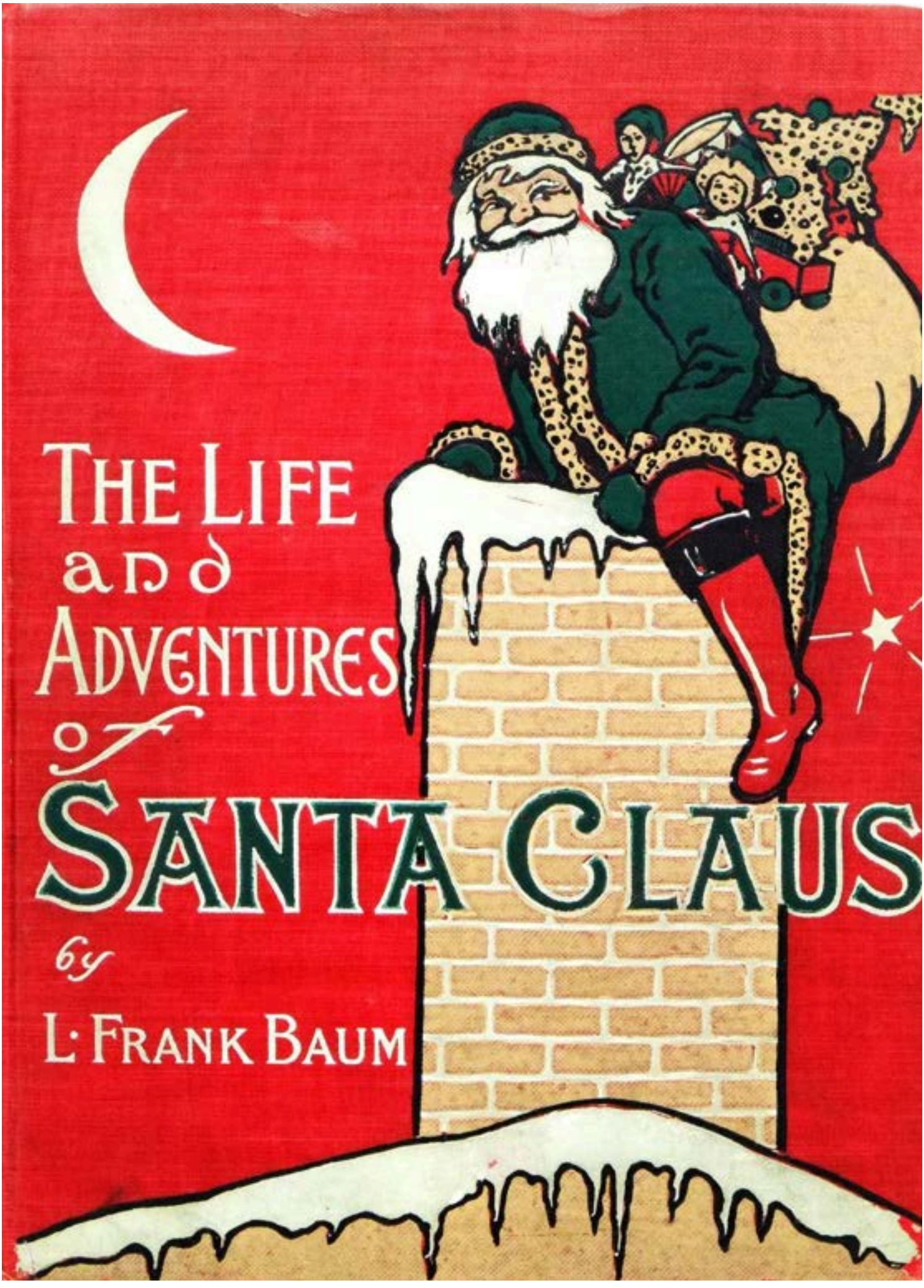
All the fist issue points as noted in Smith 2, 4; with 'Stave 1'. Coloured frontispiece and three further plates by John Leech, all hand coloured as issued – the first and only time Dickens used coloured illustrations, in his desire to make the book highly valued. It proved to be very expensive so was never repeated. Generally in very good condition.

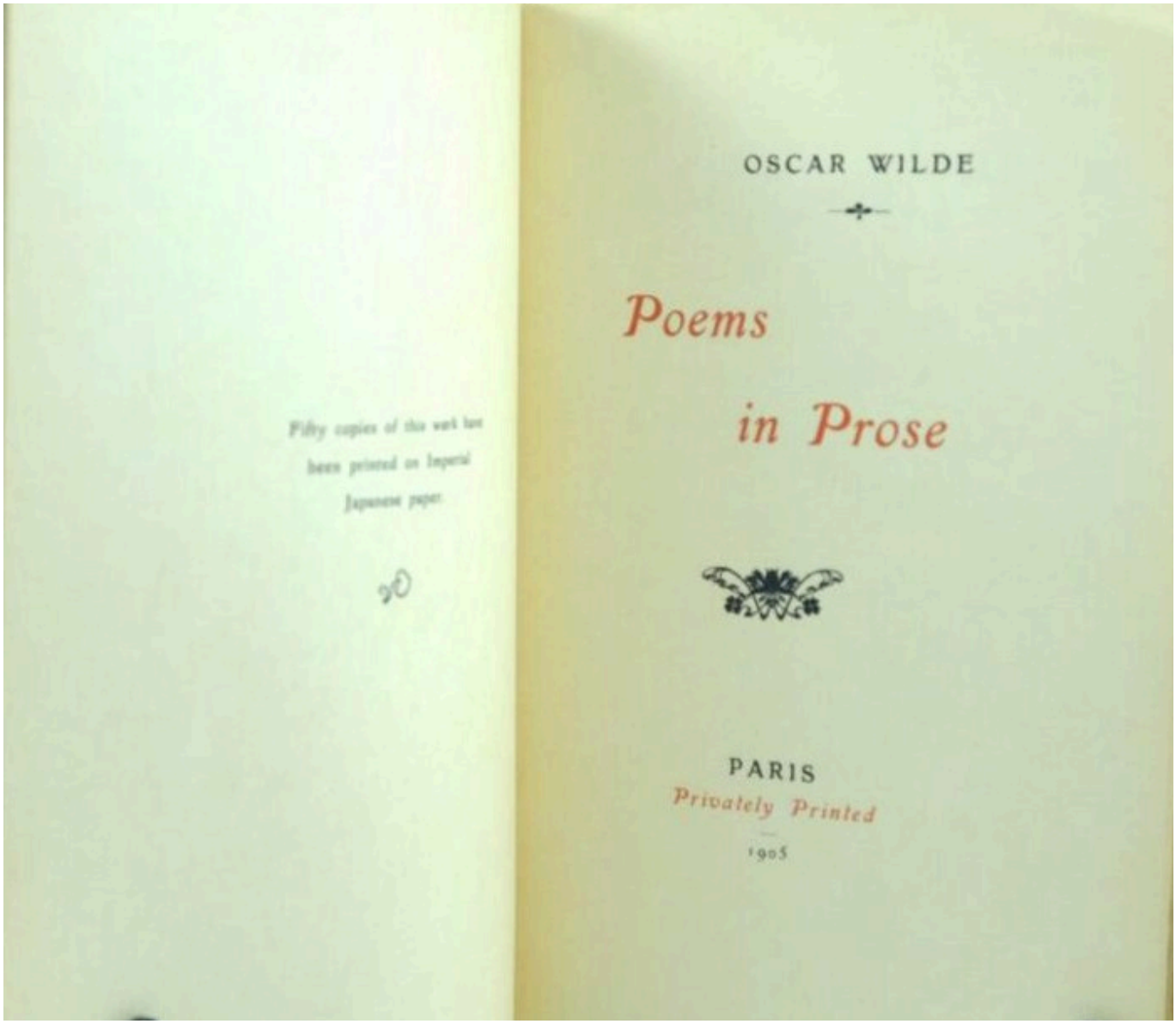
166 pages. Small slim 8vo



Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
£1,000.00
Second edition - Published by Richard Bentley, London 1839

A very good edition of Oliver Twist in three volumes. Original cloth with gilt lettering on the spines. Rebacked preserving cloth. Twenty four illustrated plates with spotting and staining. Otherwise generally clean contents. 8vo


THE LIFE
and
ADVENTURES
of
SANTA CLAUS
by
L. FRANK BAUM



(previous page)

The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus by Frank Baum
£2,550.00

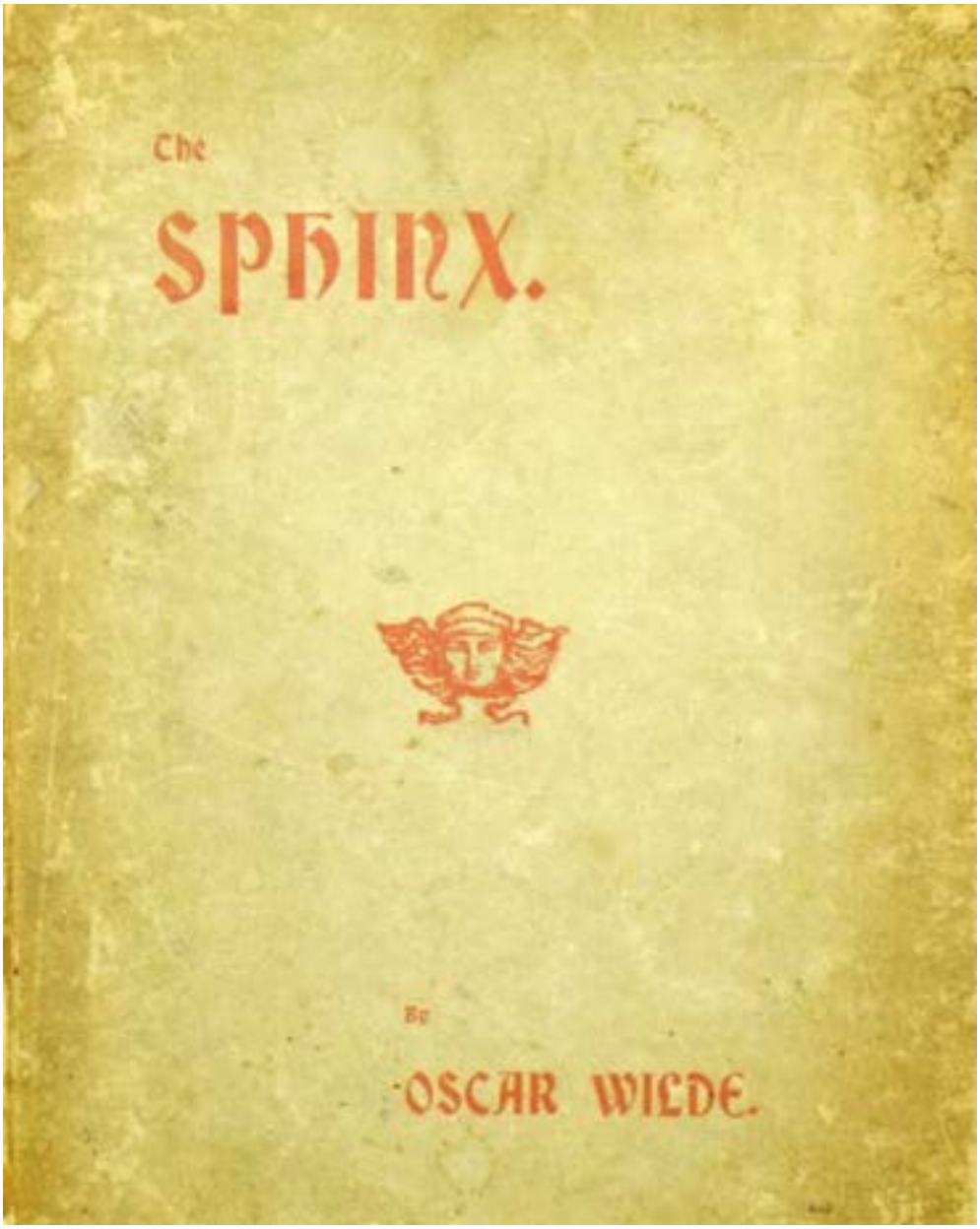
First edition - Published by Bowen-Merrill Company, Indianapolis. 1902

Rare first edition, first state from the author of Wizard of Oz. Sections printed as 'Book First', 'Second' and 'Third' – later issues printed 'Youth', Manhood' and 'Old Age'. In very good condition. 6 full colour and 14 x 2 colour illustrations. Clean red pictorial cloth with darkened spine colour. Pencil gift inscription dated 1903 from Santa Claus on front free page. Clean contents with a few smudges. 8vo 206 pp

Poems in Prose by Oscar Wilde
£3,000.00

Limited edition of 1/50
Printed Privately in Paris, 1905

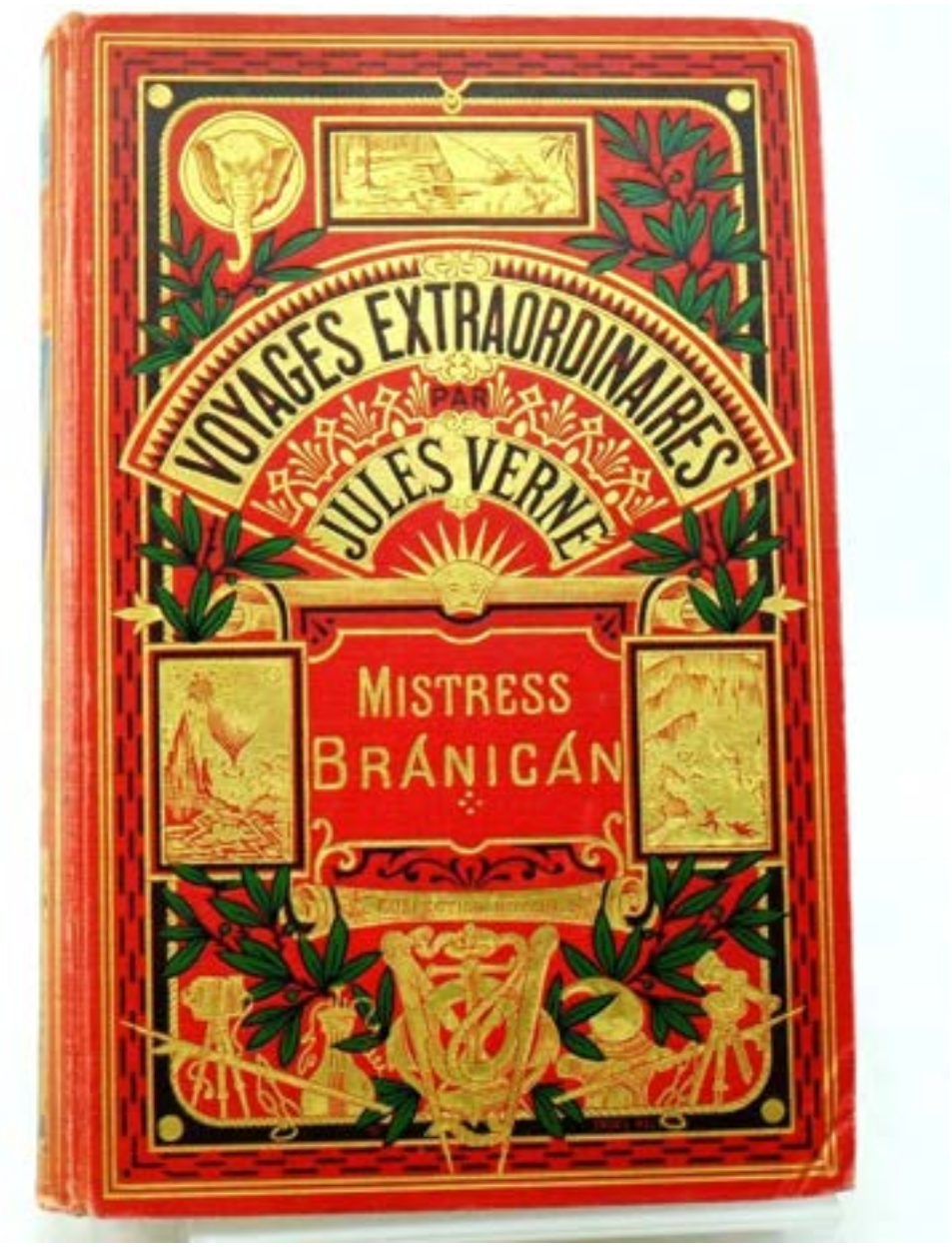
A limited edition 1/50 privately printed on Imperial Japanese paper. Rebound with the original dust wrapper intact and included. 20th century calf with gilt lettering. Corners of the original cover lightly chipped and light soiling. Red illustrated lettering within the text. Privately printed (but Charles Carrington) [Mason 609}. 38pp 8vo.



The Sphinx by Oscar Wilde
£890.00

Limited edition 24/300
Privately printed, London 1901

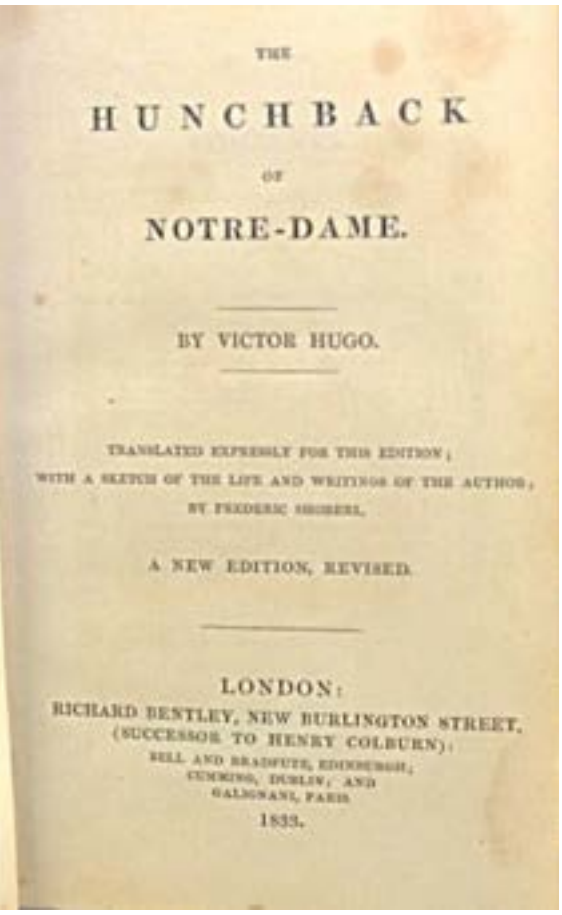
Limited edition of The Sphinx illustrated with vignettes. Only 300 copies of this work have been printed. 250 on antique paper and 50 on Japanese Vellum of which this is number 24. Original cloth boards with red lettering and illustrations. Wear and light stains to the board and spine. Top edge gilt. Clean end papers. Lightly browned yet clean contents. 32pp 20 x 26cm.



Mistress Branican by Jules Verne
£295.00

Undated and assumed 1st edition from 1st Hetzel Collection 1891 - Published by Collection Hetzel, Paris

A very good, bright French copy of Mistress Branican. This illustrated volume contains black and white and full page colour illustrations within the french text. 19 x 28cm. 440pp.


THE

HUNCHBACK

OF

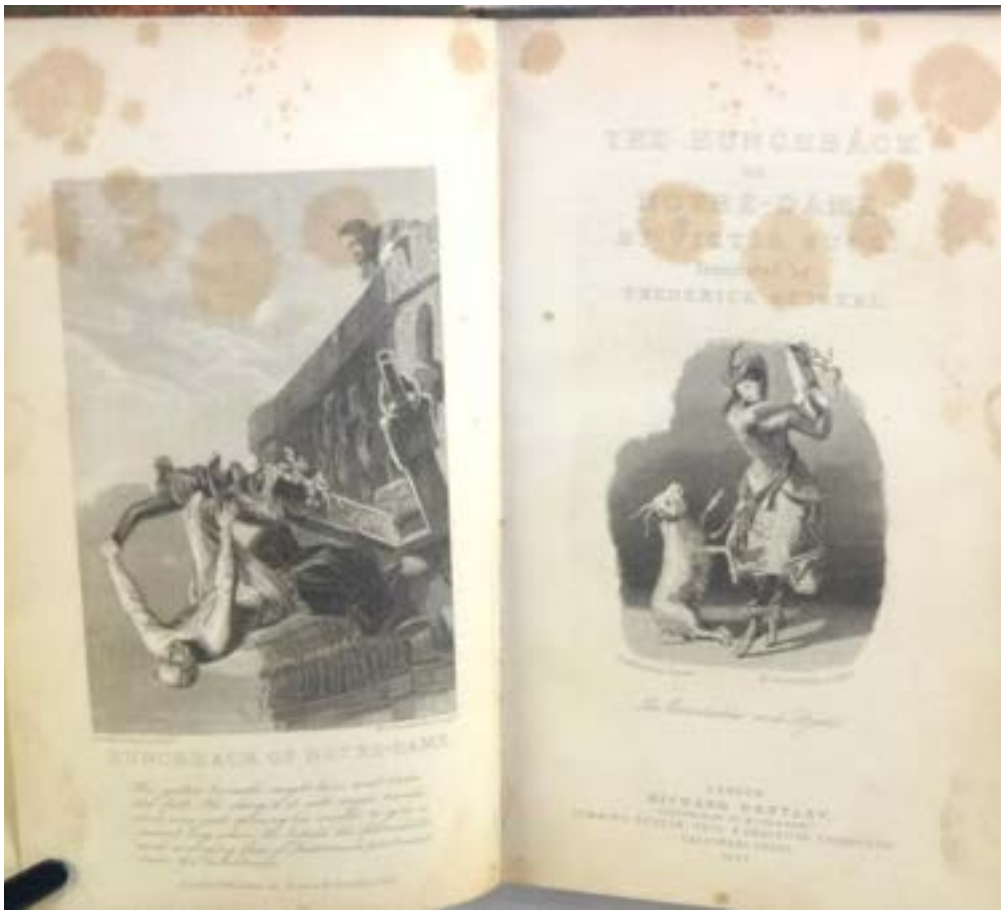
NOTRE-DAME.

BY VICTOR HUGO.

TRANSLATED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS EDITION;
WITH A SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF THE AUTHOR,
BY FREDERIC SHOBERL.

A NEW EDITION, REVISED.

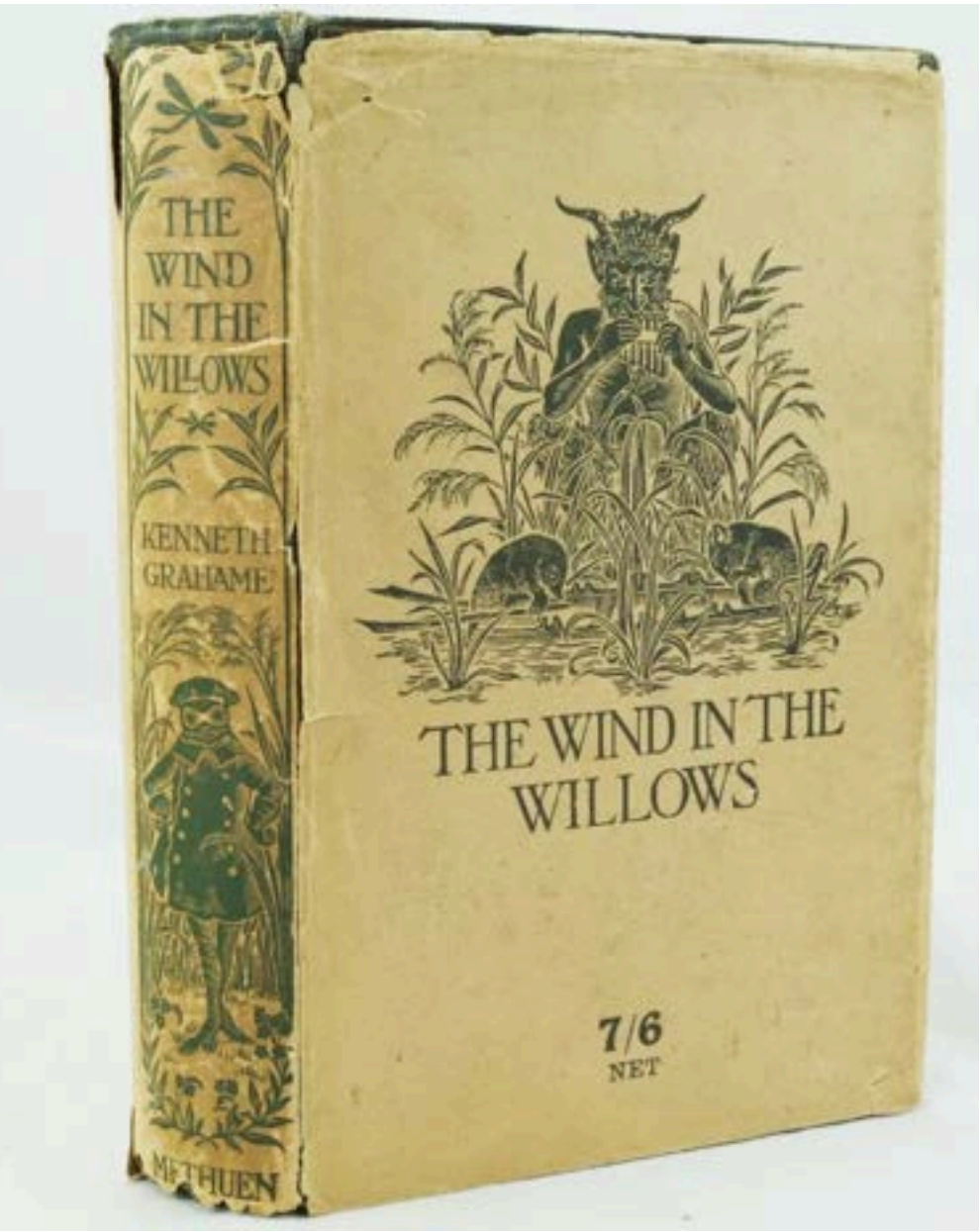
LONDON:
RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,
(SUCCESSOR TO HENRY COLBURN):
BELL AND BRADFUTE, EDINBURGH;
CUMMING, DUBLIN; AND
GALIGNANI, PARIS.
1833.



The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Hugo Victor
£2,500.00

First edition, second printing
Published by Richard Bentley, UK 1833

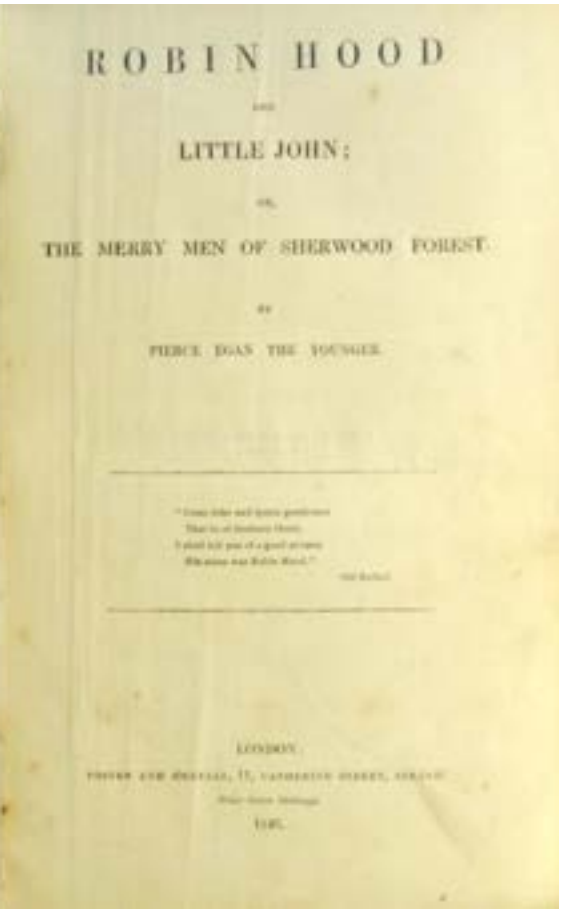
First edition, second printing in English of The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Translated expressly for this edition. With a sketch of the life and writings of the author, Victor Hugo, by Frederick Shoberl. In good + condition with wear to boards and extremities. Bookplate on the front end paper. Hinges lightly cracked. Stains on half title and title page otherwise clean contents. 8vo 466pp plus advertisements.



The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
£10,000.00

First edition - Published by Methuen and Co, London 1908

First edition with a scarce second state jacket
With a frontpiece by Graham Robertson. Original green cloth boards with rubbed gilt illustration and lettering. Wear to the edges and corners. Uncut pages which are top edged gilt. Signature on the browned front end page dated 2-03-12. Tissue guarded frontis illustration in clean condition. The contents are clean. Dust jacket has wear to the extremities and repaired tears on the spine. Small pieces missing from upper and lower edges of spine. 8vo 302 printed pages.


ROBIN HOOD

AND

LITTLE JOHN;

OR,

THE MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD FOREST.

BY

PIERCE EGAN THE YOUNGER.

LONDON:



Robin Hood and Little John by Pierce Egan
£850.00

First edition
Published by Foster and Hextall, London 1840

The rare first edition of Pierce Egan's novel, Robin Hood, bound from the instalments of three publications originally sold for around a penny in weekly instalments over 2 years, 1838- 1840: Book I, pp1-164, Book II, pp165-474, Book III, Robin Hood Ballads, illustrated with engraving on wood by an Eminent Artist, dated 1840, 86pp with preface. Unusually each publication has the printers details along the spine (not visible). Toned pages with some staining. Finely bound on dark leather with raised bands on the spine.

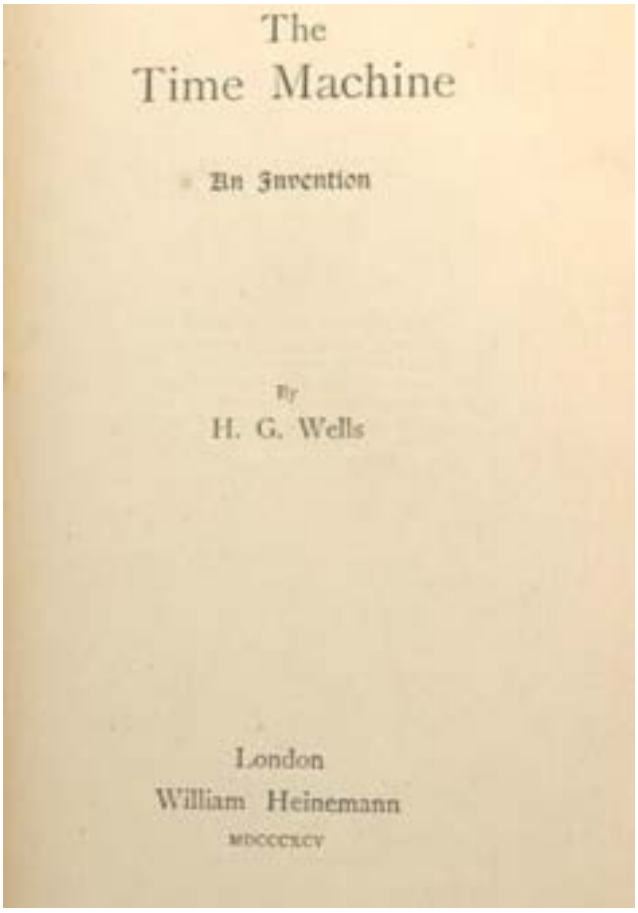
One of the very earliest published writings of the Robin Hood character.

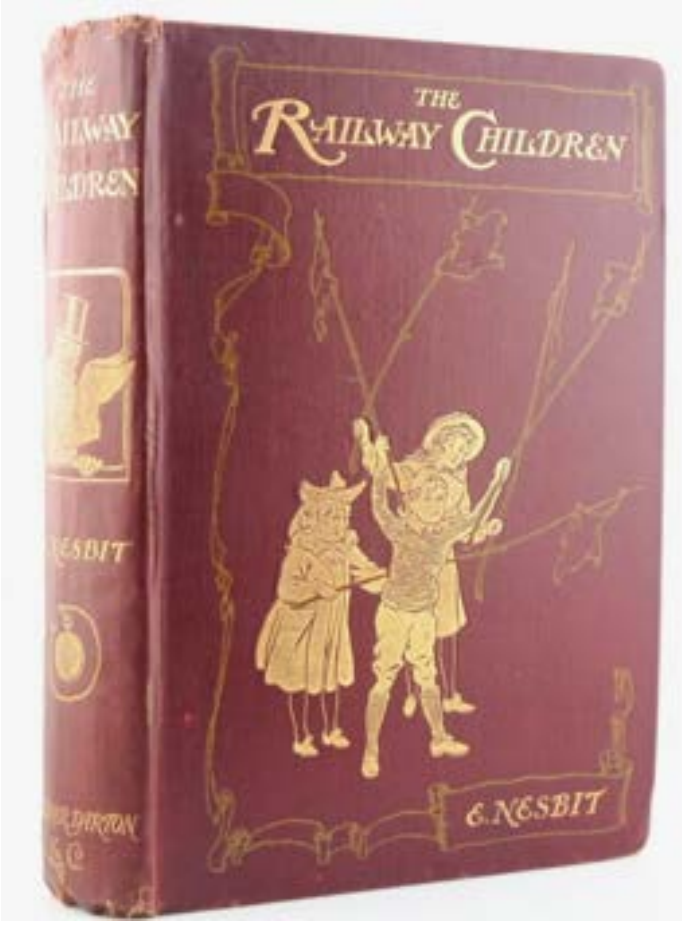
In very good condition. 8vo.

The Time Machine by H. G. Wells
£2,500.00

First edition of paper wrapped publication. Rebound.
Published by William Heinemann, London 1895.

A first edition, first state of the “A” variant paper wrapped issue of *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells. With the correct 152 pages of text and no publishers advertisements at the end. This variant was published simultaneously with the cloth variant “B”, both without any statement of printing on the copyright page. Only 10,000 copies printed. Rebound with blue cloth boards with half leather binding. . 152pp 12 x 17cm.



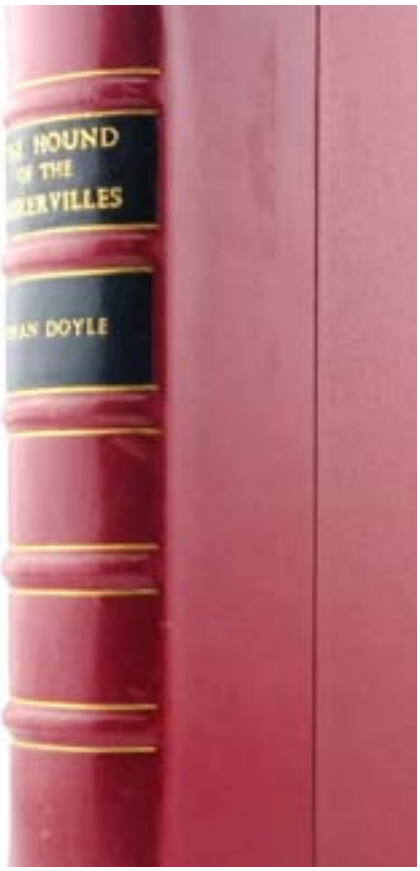


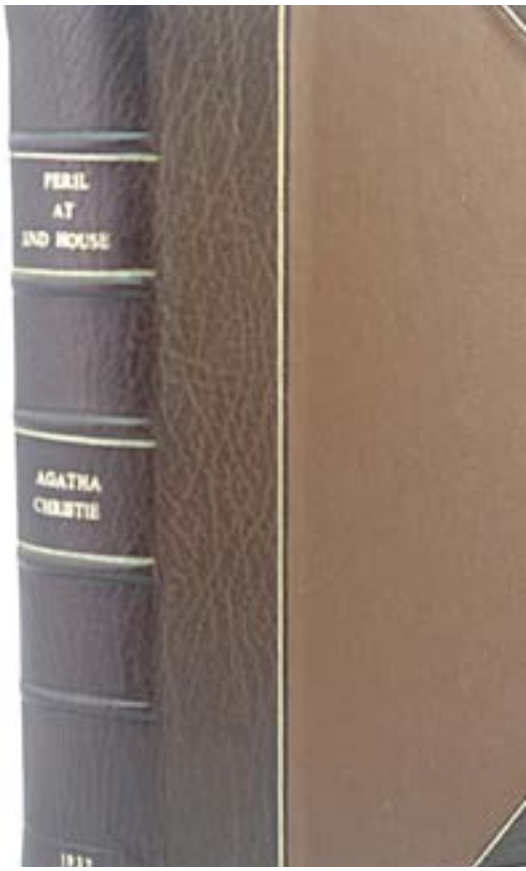
The Railway Children by Edith Nesbit
£875.00

First edition - Published by Wells Gardner, Darton & Co, Ltd, London , 1906

A first edition of the classic and popular novel, The Railway Children, commemorated by the 1970 film directed by Lionel Jeffries, starring Jenny Agutter, Bernard Cribbins and Dinah Sheridan. In very good condition with 120 black and white plates by H. E. Brock. Original dark red cloth boards with gilt illustrations. Top edge gilt. Slight split to spine on front end paper. 309pp with 10 pages of advertisments at the end. 8vo.







Bindings:

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
£395.00
Authors illustrated edition, rebound
Published by Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, & Rivington, London 1876
The Author's Edition with illustrations in two parts, ie, two title pages and contents. 8vo 302pp.

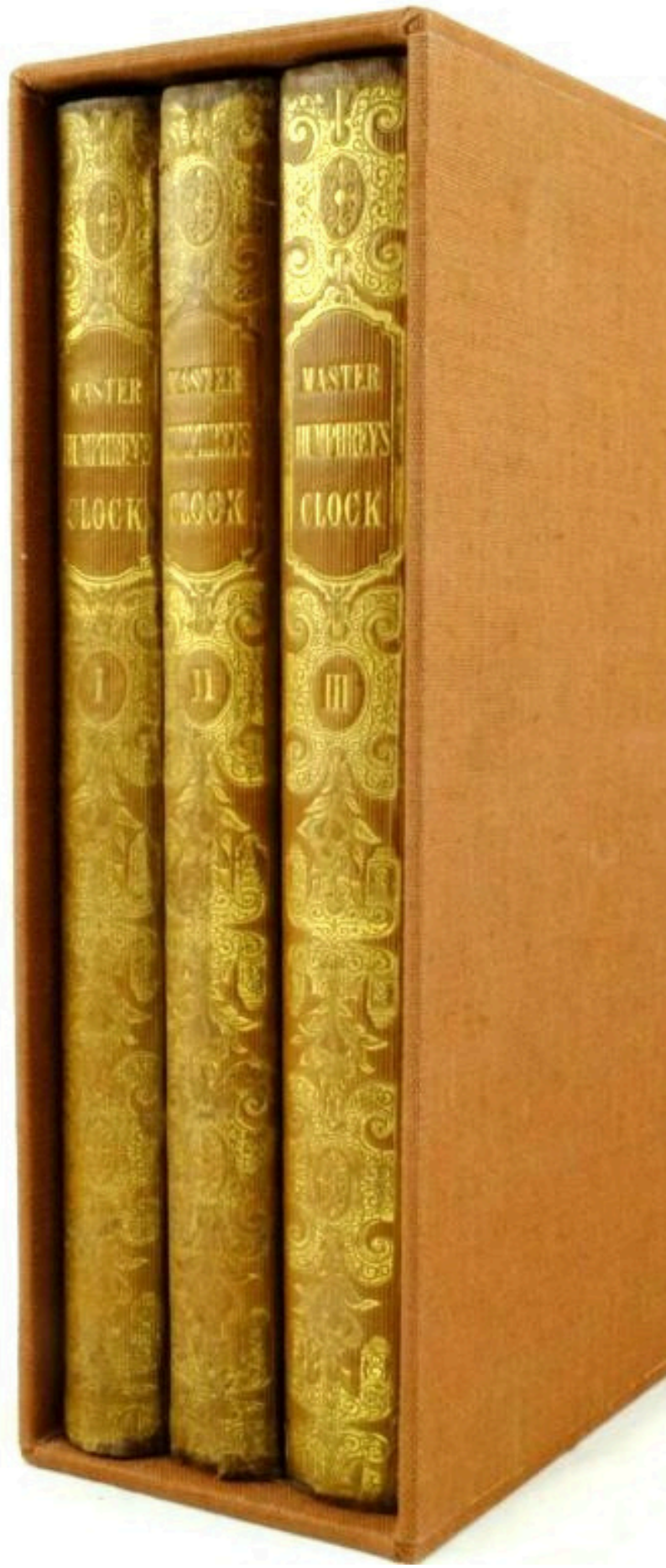
The Hound of the Baskervilles by A. C. Doyle
£1,750.00
First edition
Published by George Newnes, London 1902
With "*you*" for "*your*" on p.13, line 3 indicating first state. 8vo 359pp

Peril at End House by Agatha Christie
£725.00
First edition.
Published by W. Collins Sons & Co, London 1932
8vo. 352pp with 4 pages of publisher's advertisements.

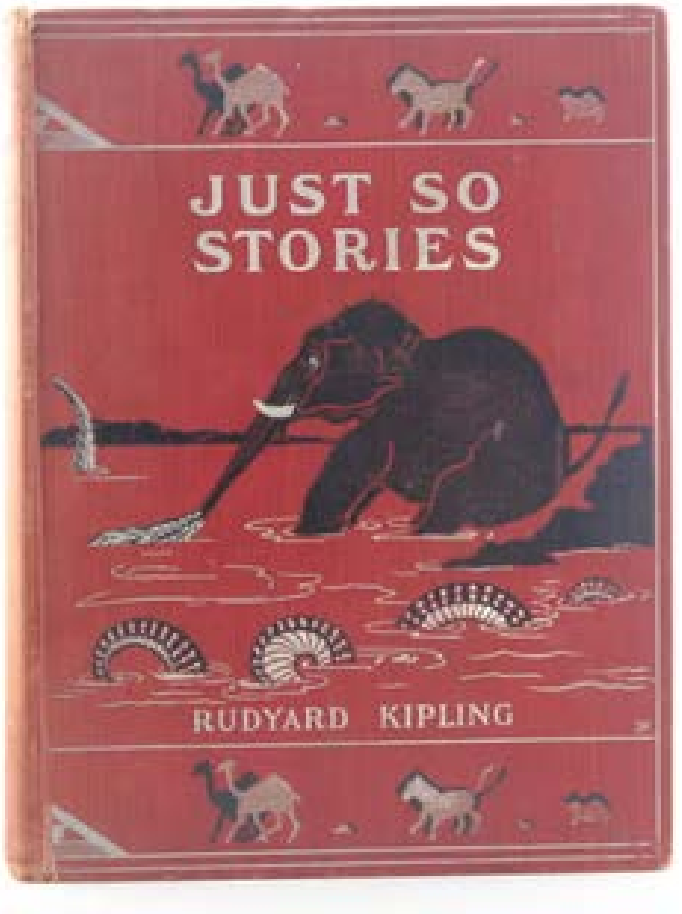
Master Humphrey's Clock by Charles Dickens
£1,050.00

First edition
Published by Chapman and Hall, London 1840-41

First edition in original binding of Master Humphrey's Clock in book form of three volumes. With illustrations by George Cattermole and Halbot Browne. Original brown blind-stamped cloth with vignette stamped in gilt on the upper boards. Light fading of rear board of volume one. Light rubbing and light fading of the spines. Spines ends repaired. Small stamp residue from bookplate removal on front pastedowns. Clean contents with minimal spotting. Volume one with small chip on lower edge of front end paper. Encased in modern brown cloth slipcase. 8vo Eckel pp 69-70



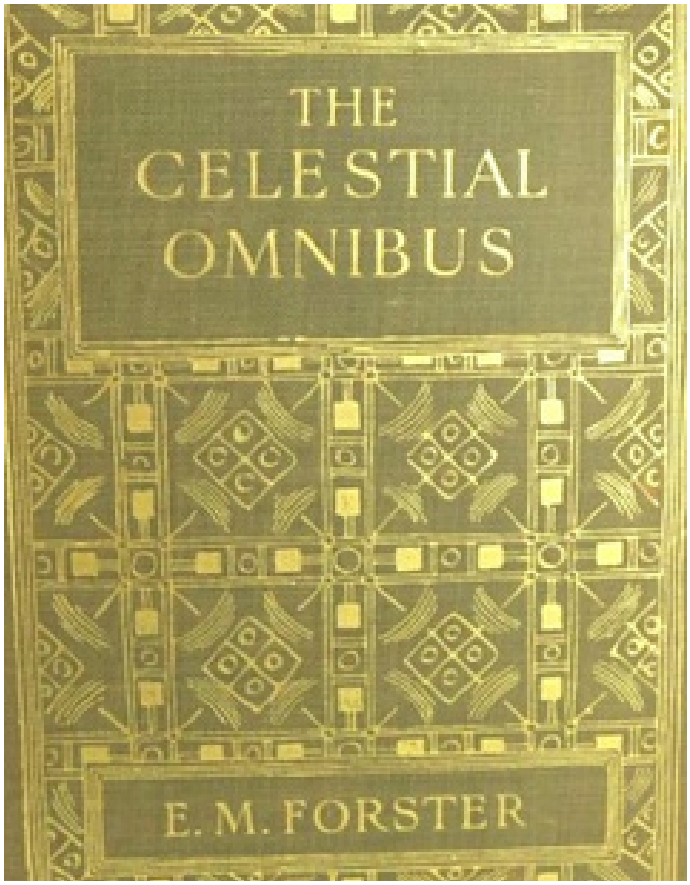
Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling
£650.00



Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling
£650.00

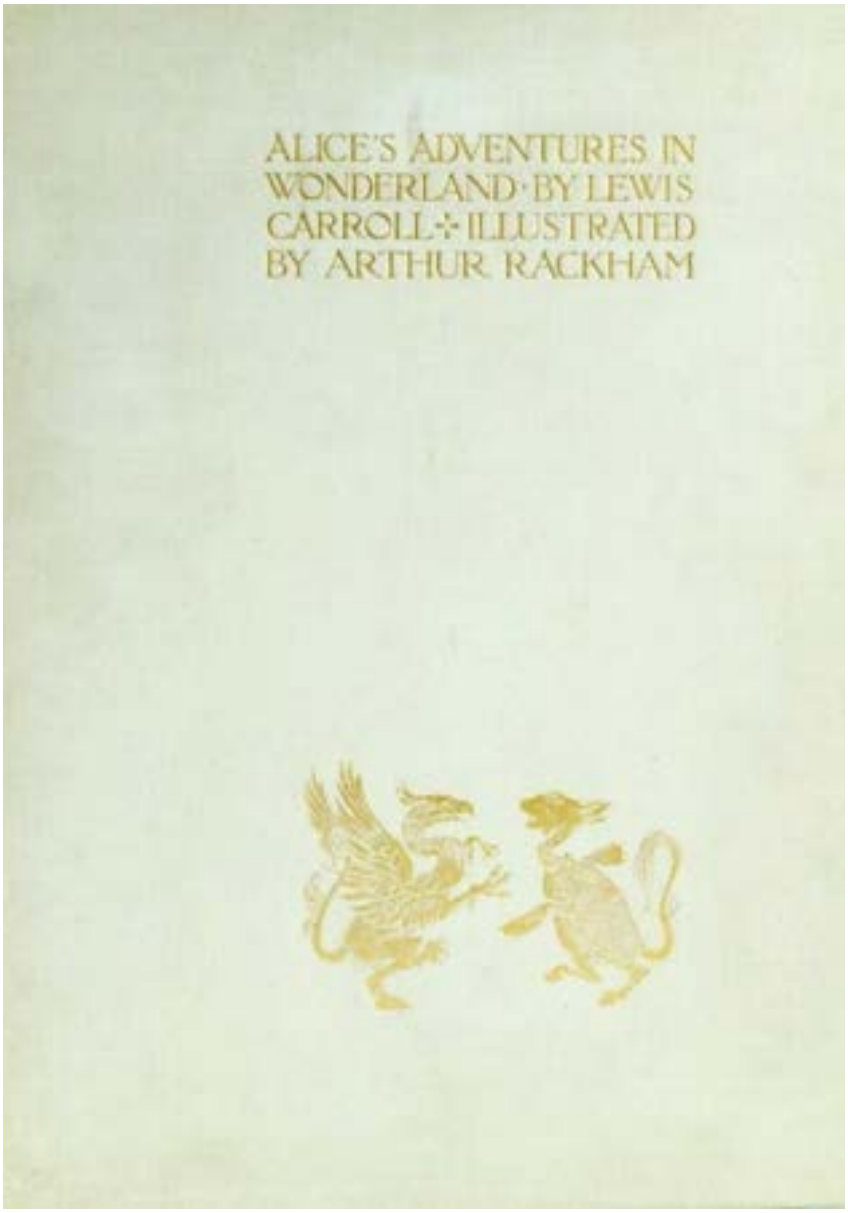
A very good condition first state of Just So Stories illustrated by the author. Original illustrated boards with wear to the extremities and lightly marked boards. First states points all correct: text to page 249, R & R printer's device and no ads to page 251. Original white pigment, used in the first state only, has worn off as per usual with this issue. Clean and lightly toned contents. p.159. Large 8vo - 240x180mm

The Celestial Omnibus by E. M. Forster
£230.00



First edition, second impression. Published by Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd, London 1912

Very good condition. 8vo 164 pp with 4 pages of advertisements



Alice's Adventures illustrated by Rackham

£1,950.00

Limited edition 683/1100
Published by Heinemann, London 1907

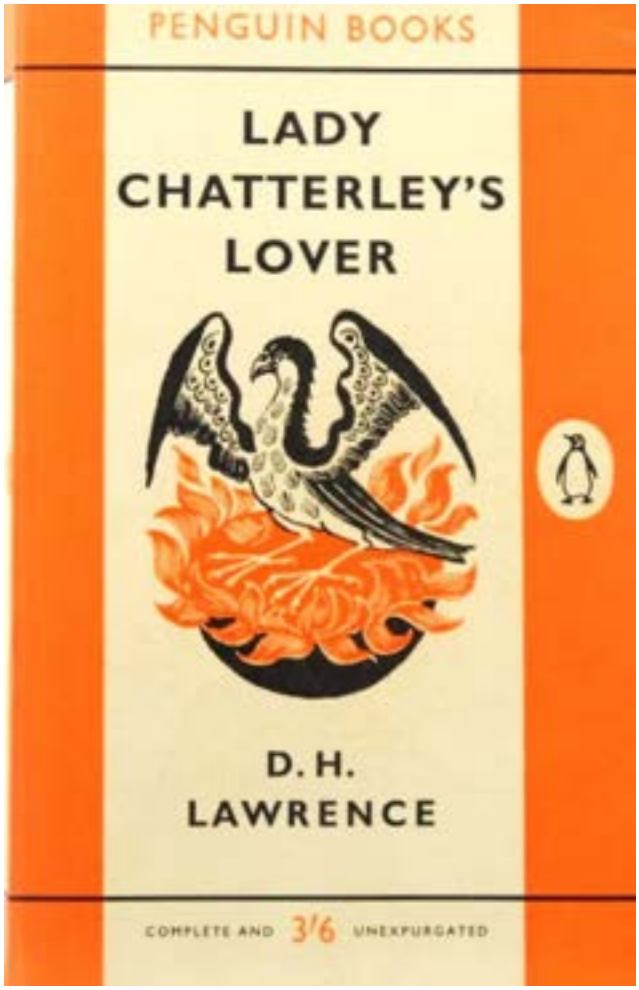
A bright limited edition (683/1100) of this classic tale with a poem by Austin Dobson. With thirteen tipped in colour illustrations and black and white illustrations throughout the text. Captioned tissue guards. Age toning and light spotting. Slight lean and very light wear/rubbing to the boards. Top edge gilt. 4to. 162 pp.

Lady Chatterley's Lover by D. H. Lawrence
£795.00

Limited edition no: 1604/1800
Privately printed, Germany 1928

A very good condition of Lady Chatterley's Lover by D. H. Lawrence. Due to the books explicit content the book was banned in many countries including the UK. Unauthorised, privately printed "pirated" editions subsequently emerged to circumvent the censorship laws. This great find of the Germany limited edition has original pale pink cloth boards with lightly faded spine. Clean contents, 8v0 365pp





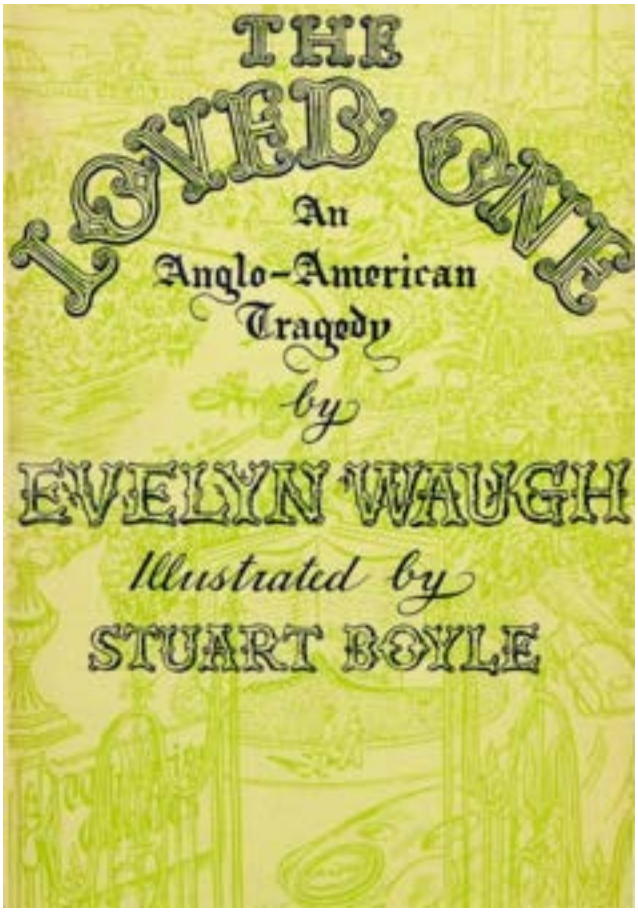
Lady Chatterley's Lover by D. H. Lawrence
£150.00
First UK edition
Published by Penguin Books, London, UK
1960

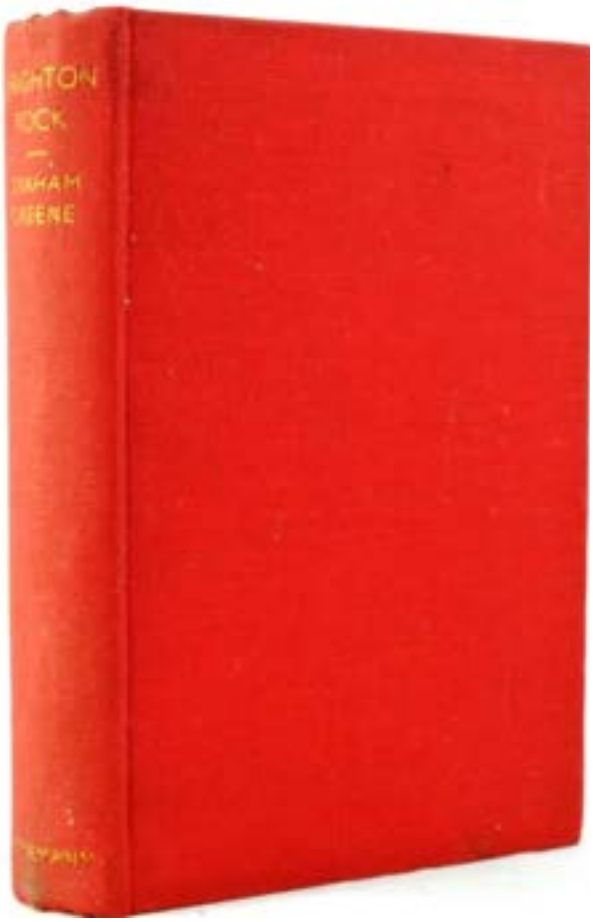
A landmark, first UK edition of Lady Chatterley's Lover in near fine condition. Until November 1960 British people were prevented from reading the novel by a law that criminalised the publication of writing considered indecent and immoral. Penguin Books successfully challenged the Obscene Publications Act and 200,000 copies were sold on the first day of publication. Original paper covers in near fine condition. Toned contents in excellent condition. 8vo. 317pp

The Loved One by Evelyn Waugh
£125.00

First edition
Published by Chapman and Hall, London 1948

A near fine first edition copy of The Loved One with clipped dust jacket. Illustrated by Stuart Boyle.
8vo 144pp.

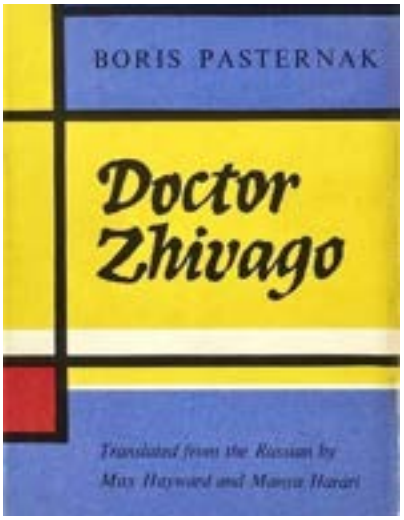




Brighton Rock by Graham Greene
£890.00

First edition
Published by Heinemann, London 1938

A very good condition copy of the classic novel, Brighton Rock. A scarce find of the first edition, first printing publication without the dust jacket.
8vo. 361 pp.

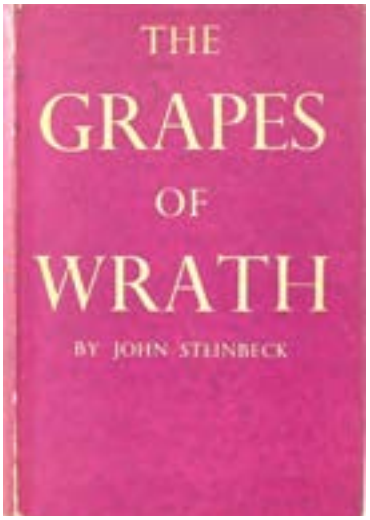


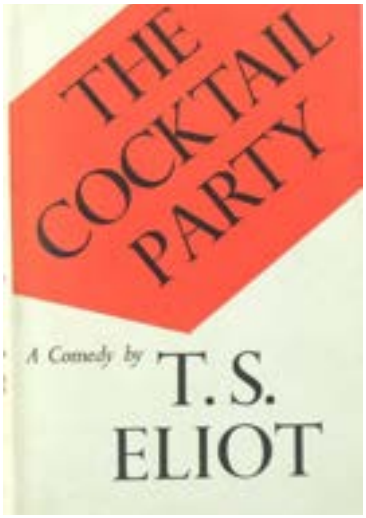
Doctor Zhivago by Boris Pasternak
£550.00
First edition
Published by Collins and Harvill Press, London 1958

Translated from the Russian by Max Hayward and Manya Harari. Including the Poems of Zhivago at the rear of the book. Complete with unclipped dust jacket.
8vo 510 pp.

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
£490.00
First edition
Published by William Heinemann, London 1939

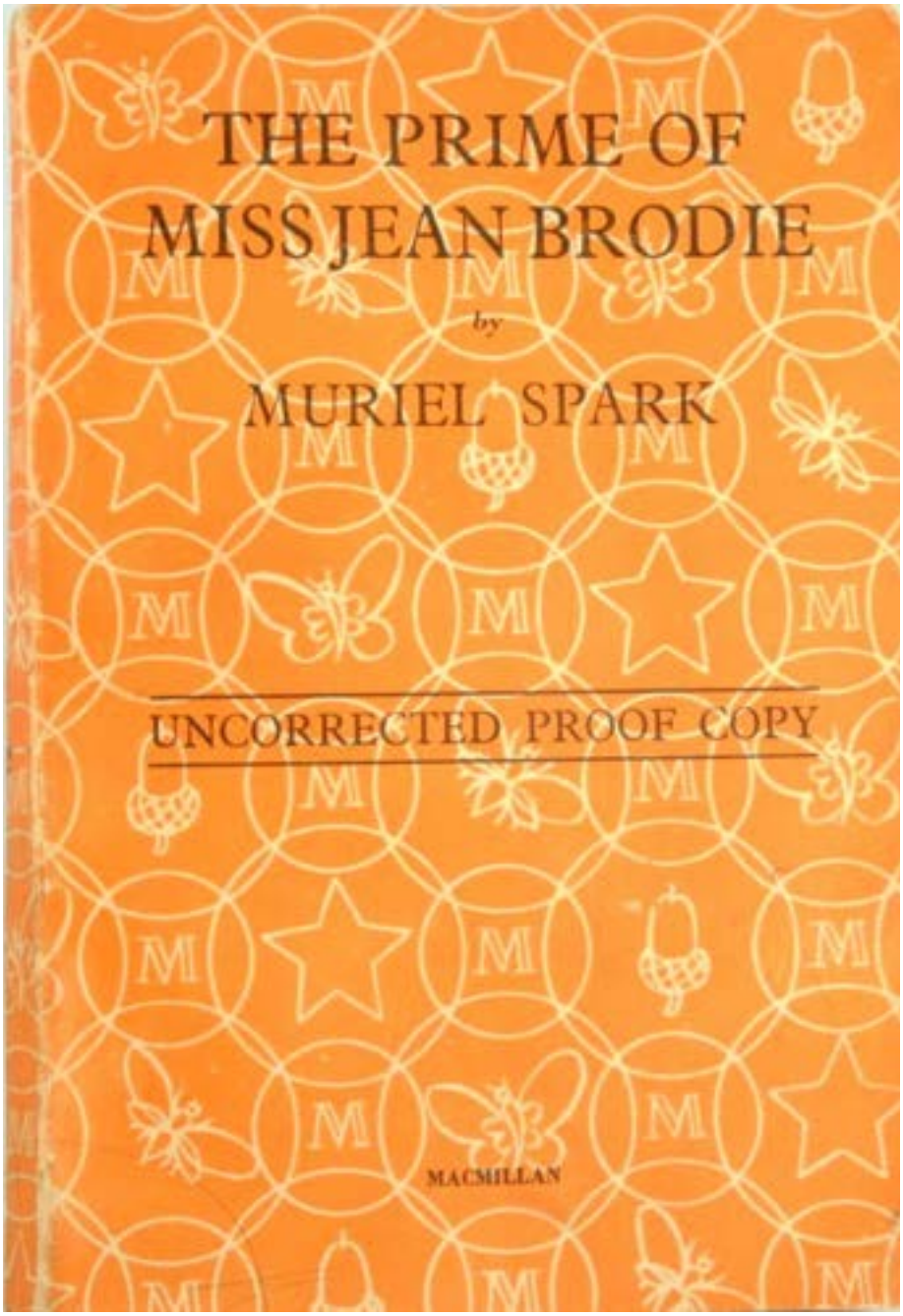
A very good condition copy of this classic novel, The Grapes of Wrath. This first edition comes with first issue, price clipped dust jacket
8vo. 553 pp.





The Cocktail Party signed by T. S. Eliot
£1,850.00
First edition
Published by Faber & Faber, London 1950

A first issue with the typographical error on page 29. ***Signed by the author*** with the printed name crossed through on the title page. This edition of The Cocktail Party is the text of the successful play produced at the Edinburgh Festival in 1949 and repeated at Brighton later that year, preparatory to the season in New York. 8vo 170 pp.



Proof copy of The Prime of Miss Brodie by M. Spark

£325.00

First edition - Published by Macmillan & Co, London 1961

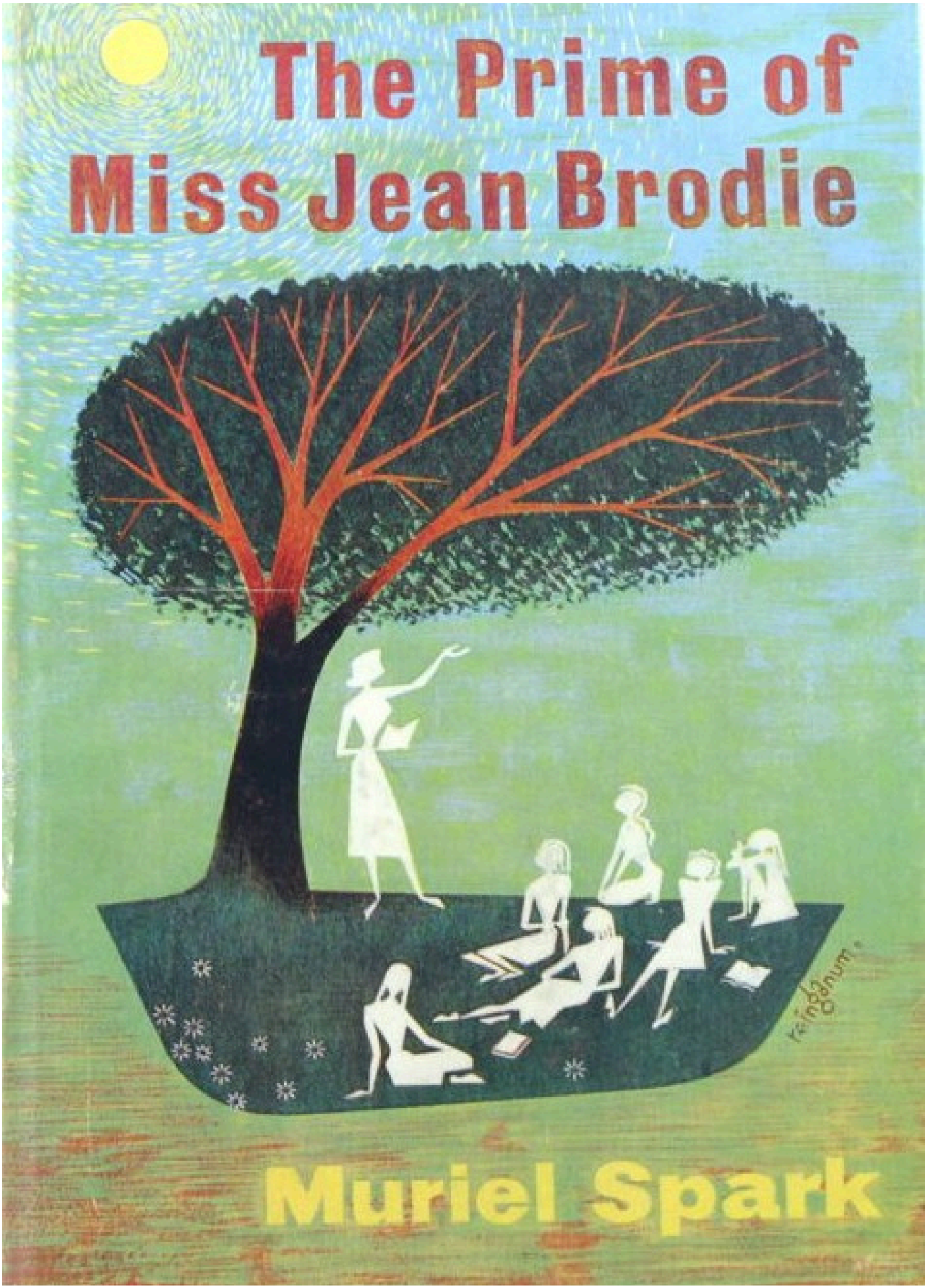
A first edition of the uncorrected proof copy of The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. Soft back orange illustrated covers. Rubbed and light wear to the covers. Some marks within the text content although generally clean. 8vo 171pp

Opposite page

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie by Muriel Spark

£350.00

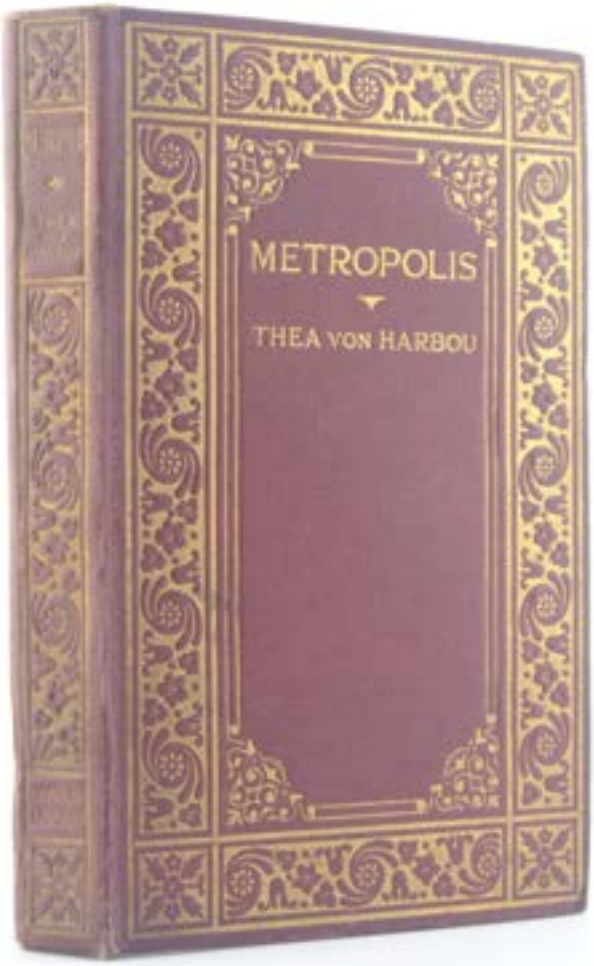
First edition - Published by Macmillan Co Ltd, London 1961


The Prime of
Miss Jean Brodie
Muriel Spark

Metropolis by Thea Von Harbou
£225.00

First edition - Published by The Readers Library Publishing Company, London 1927.

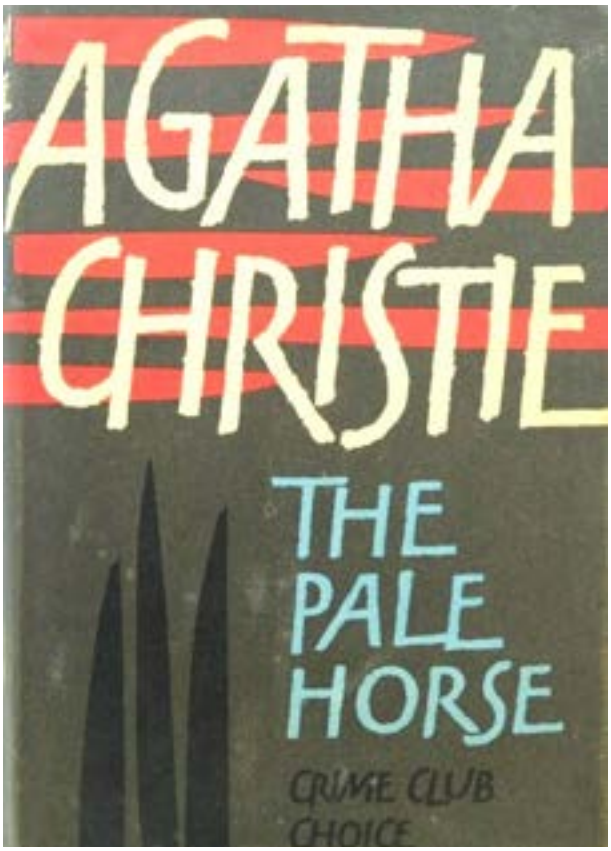
A first edition of Metropolis in very good condition. The classic art deco film of the same name and year of release, remains a cornerstone of dystopian cinema. The publisher, Readers Library, was a London based firm active from 1924 to 1935 that specialized in affordable 6d classic hardback books sold largely through non-traditional retailers. 10 x 17cm. 250pp.



The Pale Horse by Agatha Christie
£200.00

First edition - Published for The Crime Club by Collins, London 1961

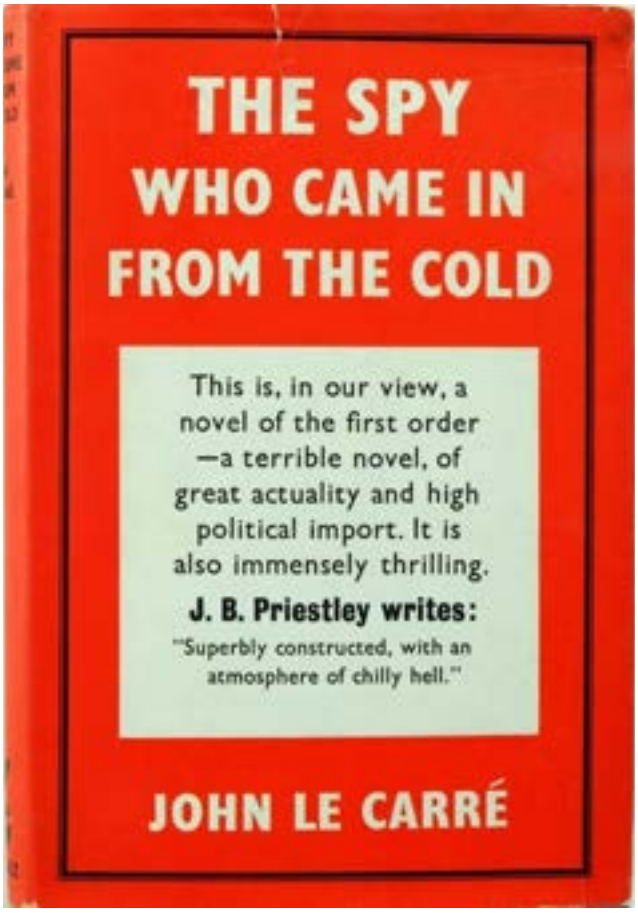
A bright first edition of The Pale Horse with unclipped dust jacket. Bright dust jacket with minimal wear. 8vo 256pp.

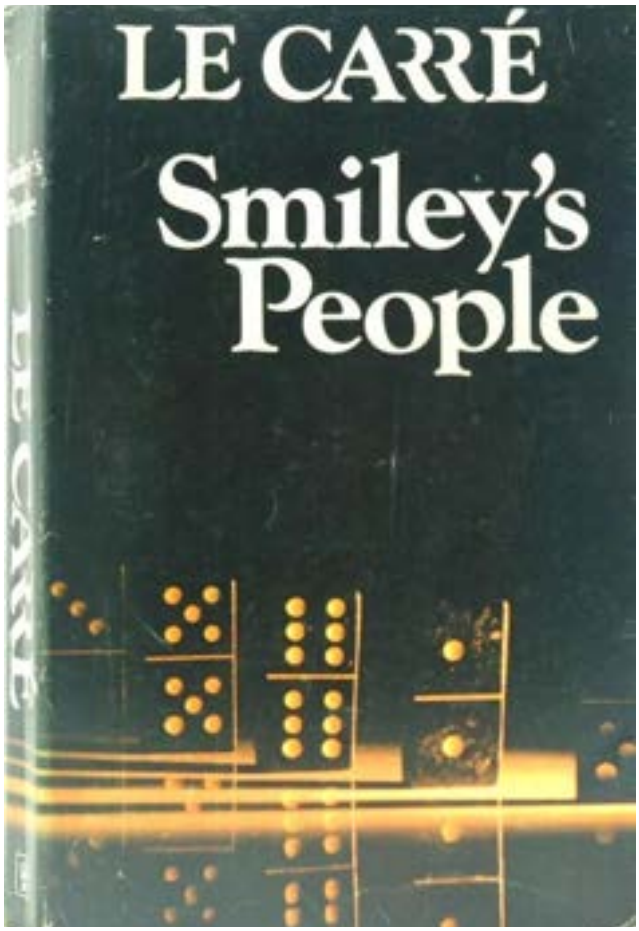


The Spy Who Came in from the Cold by John Le Carre
£590.00

Noted as 2nd Impression before publication.
Published by Victor Gollancz, London 1963

A very good/near fine copy of this classic thriller, The Spy Who Came in from the Cold with unclipped dust jacket. Noted as '2nd impression before publication'.
8vo 222 pp.

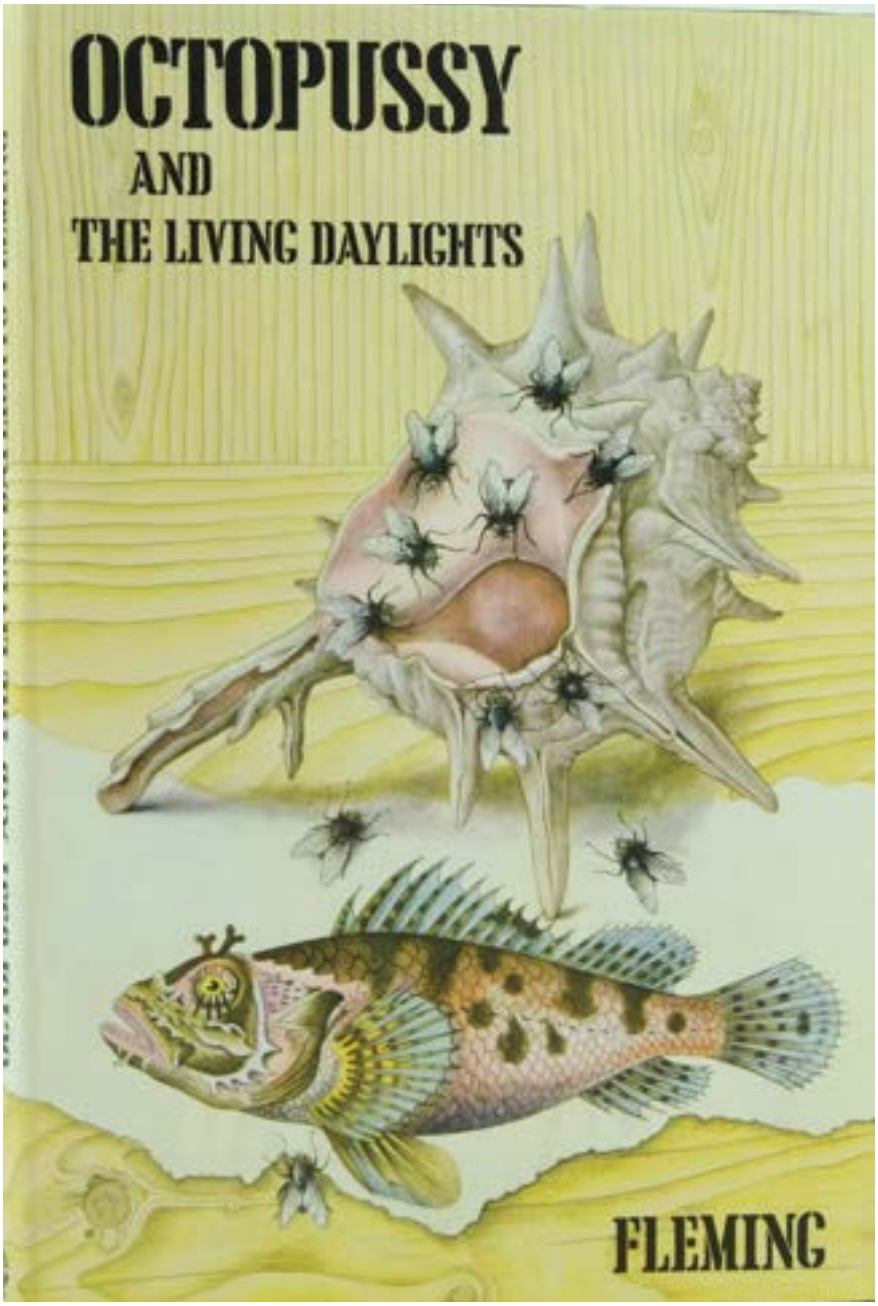




Uncorrected proof of Smiley's People by Le Carre
£490.00

Uncorrected proof copy
Published by Hodder and Stoughton, London 1979

An uncorrected proof copy of *Smiley's People* with original wrapper. The scarce proof dust jacket differs from the first edition dust jacket: white colour to the flaps, shorter and different formatting, plus a different photograph of the author on the rear panel. A clean copy. 8vo 329pp



Octopussy by Ian Fleming
£425.00

First edition.
Published by Jonathan Cape, London 1966

A very good first edition of the two James Bond thrillers, Octopussy and The Living Daylights, with dust jacket. A lovely find. 8vo 95pp.



The Sword in the Stone by T. H. White
£925.00

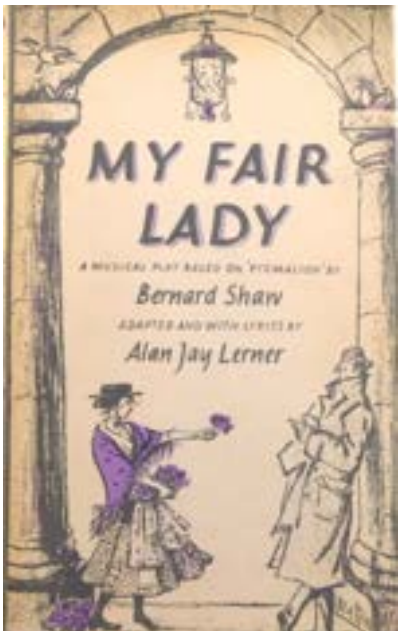
First UK edition
Published by Collins, London, UK, 1938

A first UK edition of The Sword in the Stone, and scarce to find with a dust jacket.
8vo 339pp

My Fair Lady by Bernard Shaw
£225.00

First UK edition.
Published by Max Reinhart, Constable, London 1958

Bernard Shaw's My Fair Lady, in book form, illustrated with Cecil Beaton's superb Edwardian Costume designs. Complete with unclipped dust jacket. and in excellent condition. A lovely copy. 8vo 156pp

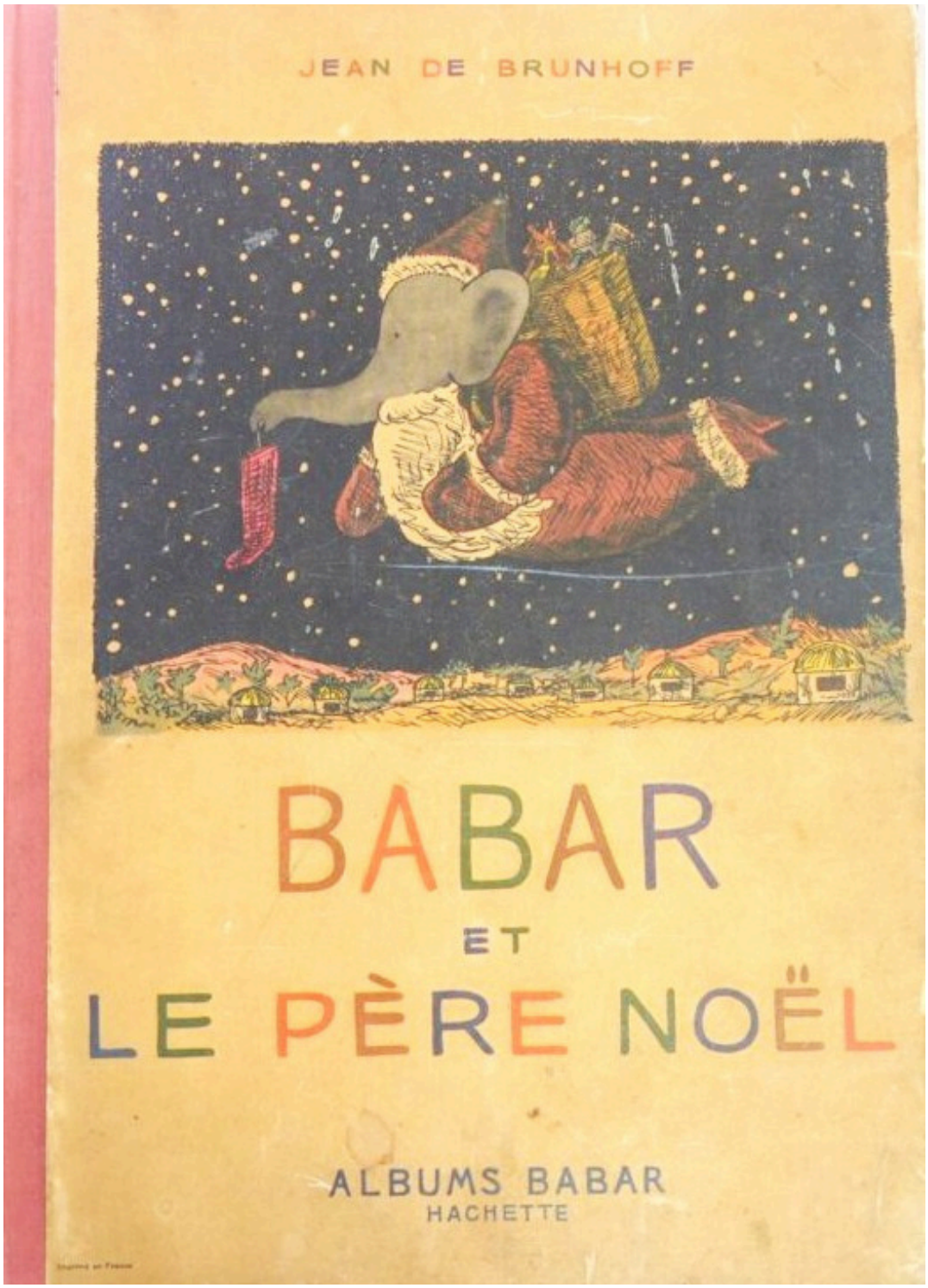




The Iron Man by Ted Hughes
£680.00

First edition
Published by Faber and Faber, London 1968

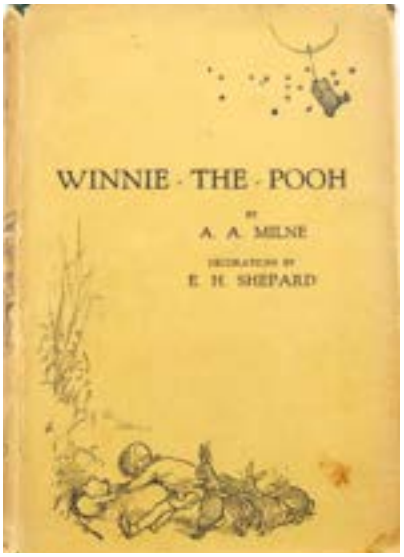
The Iron Man with dust jacket. Unclipped dust jacket is chipped with small loss to the wears to the edges of the folds.
8vo 59pp.



Babar et Le Pére Noel by Brunhoff
£125.00

First edition
Published by Hachette, Paris 1941

A scarce French first edition of Babar et Le Pére Noel, the seventh classic title in the Babar series, following Babar's journey to Europe to find Santa Claus for the disheartened children. The book was created just before the author's death in 1937, with publication delayed/realized during WWII.
Folio. 40pp



Winnie-the-Pooh by A. A. Milne
£3,250.00
First edition
Published by Methuen & Co Ltd, London 1926

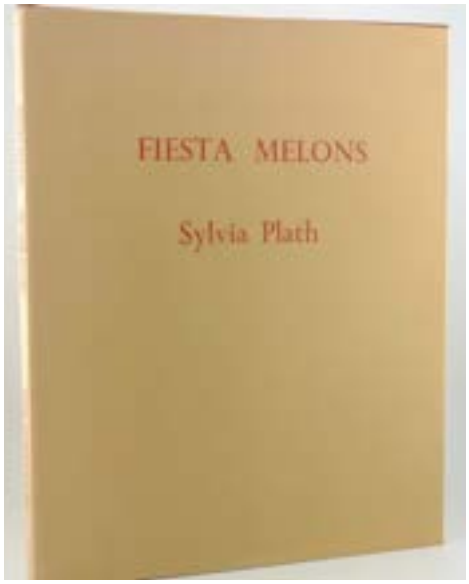
A bright, first edition of the classic book, Winnie-the-Pooh, A. A. Milne complete with unclipped dust jacket. Decorations by E. H. Shepard. 7/6 NET marked on the spine of the dust jacket and 117th Thousand on the rear flap. 158pp 8vo

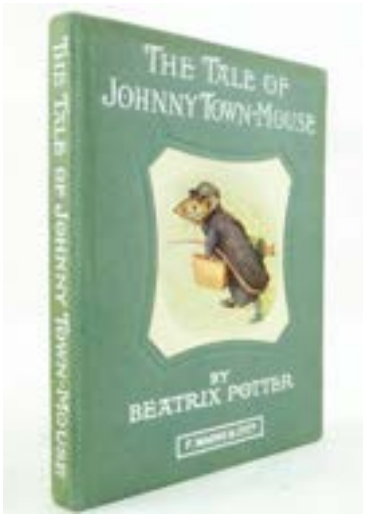
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Fiesta Melons by Sylvia Plath
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Limited edition with signature of Freida Hughes, the daughter of Ted Hughes.
The Rougemont Press, Exeter UK 1971

A delightful collection of illustrated poems in this limited edition of Fiesta Melons. Numbered 6/150. With an introduction by Ted Hughes and signed by his daughter, Frieda Hughes on the title page. . 22 x 28cm 21pp.





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£650.00
First edition
Published by Frederick Warne, London 1918

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