

Jonathan Kearns
Rare Books



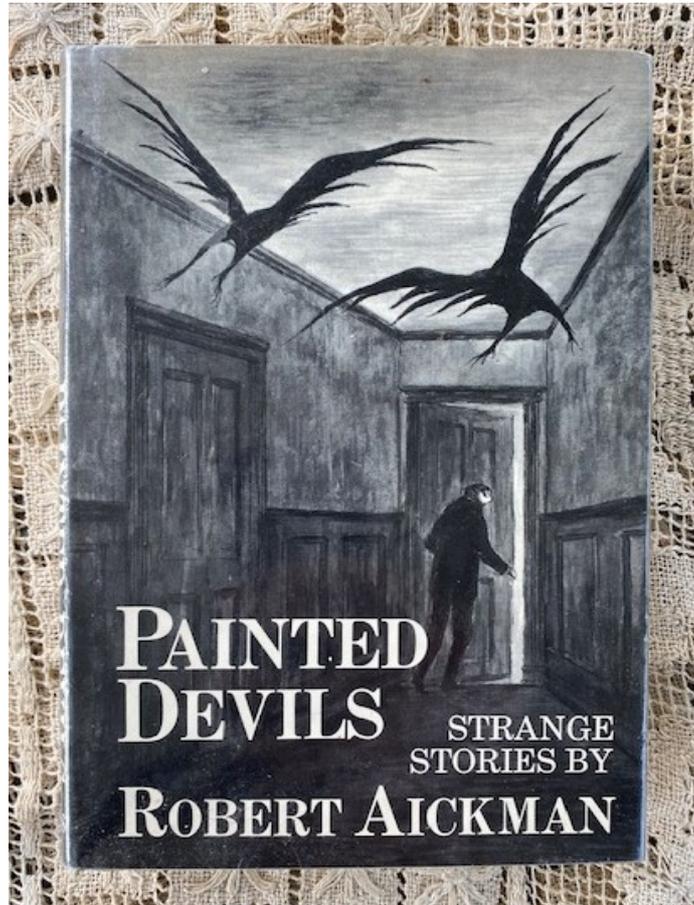
Weird Tales & Peculiar Crimes
#13

1. **Aickman, Robert. Painted Devils.**

New York: Charles Scribners, 1979.

First US edition. 8vo. 234pp. Publisher's black cloth titled in silver gilt to spine, minor edgewear, a very good copy in a very good, sharp, Edward Gorey dustjacket. Internally clean and fresh. A collection of stories that only exists in this edition for the US market. Edward Gorey and Robert Aickman in the same book is not to be sniffed at.

[Ref: 971] £100



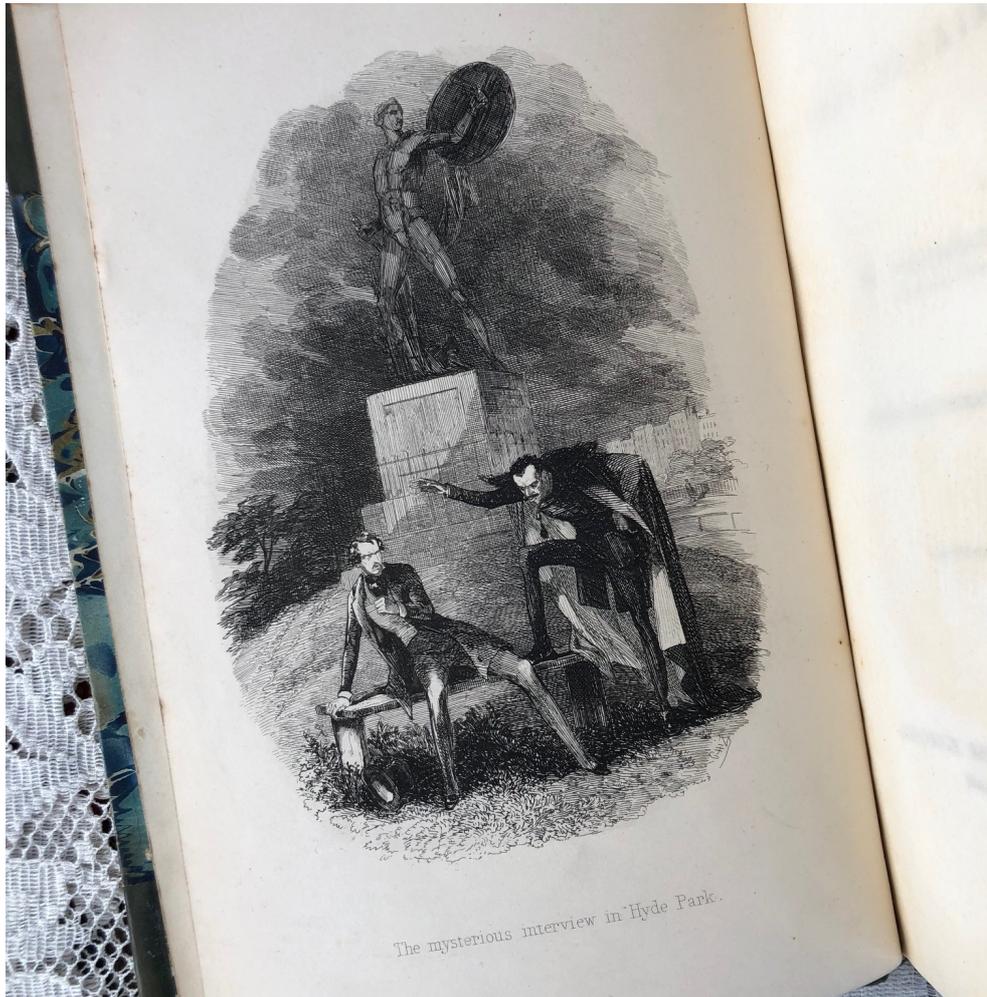
2. **Ainsworth, Harrison [Illus. H.K. Browne]. Auriol; Or, The Elixir of Life..**

London: George Routledge and Sons., [1880's].

Author's Copyright Edition. 8vo. 246pp. Contemporary half green calf gilt over marbled boards, a spot of scuffing and wear to extremities, but a very good, handsome copy. Red title label, top edge gilt. Internally clean and fresh, illustrated throughout in fine manic goth style by Hablot Knight Browne, aka the matchless Phiz. The narrative madness of mid 19th century fiction is often subsumed beneath the erroneous impression that everyone was walking about being all starchy and repressed in very severe clothing. Should anyone wish for a crash course in just how crazed and frothing 1840's serialised fiction could be, might do worse than read this; 200 year old fiends, crooks, thieves, swindlers, and dog fanciers (a professional dog thief) with names like Sandman and Tinker, and a storyline that jumps between 1599 and 1830 via an elaborate interlude in 1800, a vengeful dwarf called Flapdragon, the Illuminati, Rosicrucians, possible time travel, the elixir of life, and a hefty dose of who on earth has any

idea what is happening. It makes the tortuous floundering of Varney the Vampire look like taut, precise plot building. It's fantastic, in every meaning of the word and this kind of scattergun, two fingers up to classification deliriousness needs a renaissance.

[Ref: 965] £200

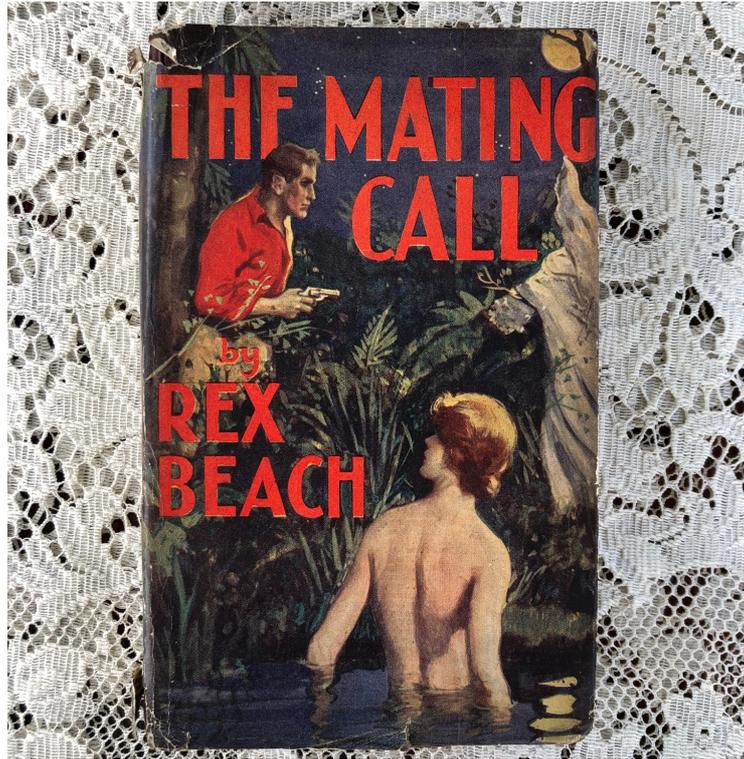


3. Beach, Rex. **The Mating Call.**

London: Readers Library Publishing Company, n.d. [1928].

Readers Library reprint edition, usually published to tie in with a film production. In this case the film was the 1928 romance vehicle by James Cruze, starring Thomas Meighan and Evelyn Brent as the shellshocked ex soldier and the Russian emigre he falls for. Publisher's burgundy "cloth" gilt, as usual for these delightful books they are produced as if someone has had "burgundy cloth gilt" described to them over a staticky phoneline and then been forced to reproduce the concept using only what is in their desk drawer, rather like a 16th century Rhinoceros. There's the ubiquitous edgewear and discolouration, the bright and typically arresting dustjacket has some fraying to the edges and some closed tears to the spine ends but is looking pretty spiffy otherwise. Internally clean, although the printing medium bears as much resemblance to quality paper as I do to Timothy Chalamet. These little books are gorgeous and delightful and trashy, and can be found everywhere in bits, but rarely in their complete glory.

[Ref: 962] £50

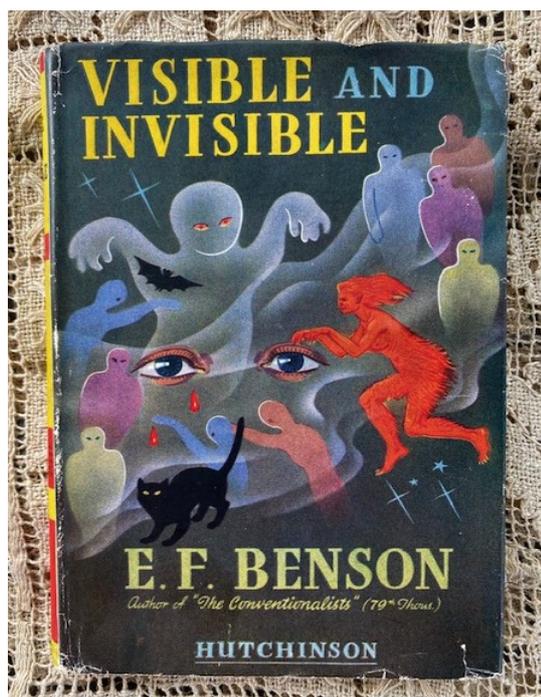


4. **Benson, E.F. *Visible and Invisible*.**

London: Hutchinson, [1946].

Reprint edition. 8vo. 176pp. Publisher's red cloth titled in black to spine, in a very good bright, clean dustwrapper with some minor edgewear and fraying. A very superior copy indeed of a fragile book. Internally clean. Benson's second collection of weird and supernatural yarnings; continuing Benson's preoccupation with large, sinister women, vampires, and of course, a giant slug. All in a day's work.

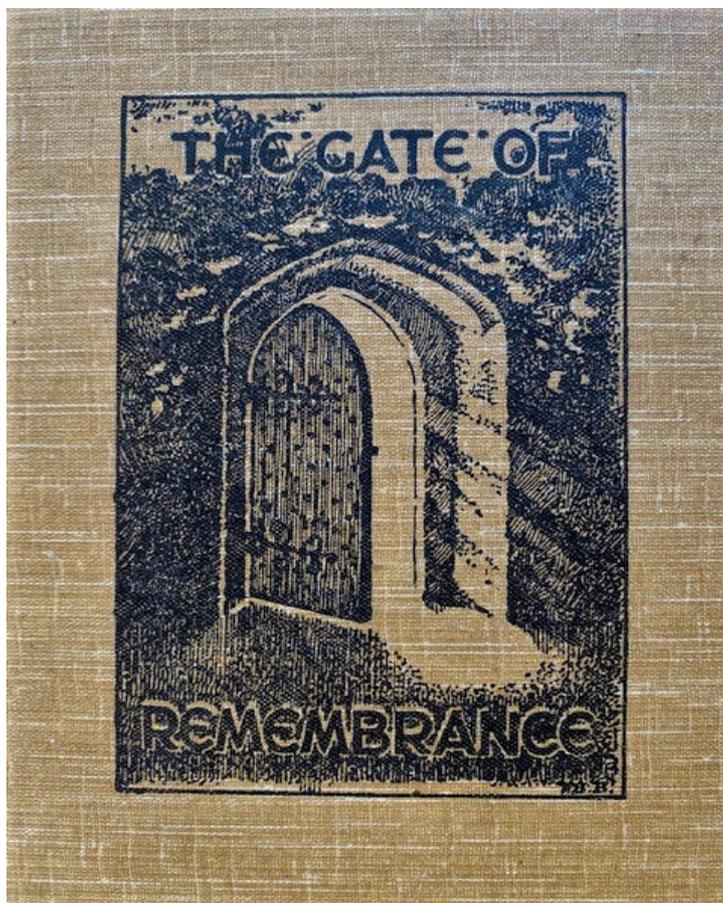
[Ref: 988] £150



5. **Bligh Bond, Frederick. *The Gate of Remembrance*** The Story of the psychological experiment which resulted in the discovery of the Edgar Chapel at Glastonbury.. Oxford: B. H. Blackwell, 1918.

First edition. 8vo. 176pp. Publisher's buff cloth boards titled and decorated in black to spine and front board. Minor rubbing and edgewear, some soiling to the spine panel, bumping to spine ends, strong and solid. Internally clean, "For Review" publisher's blind stamp to upper corner of title page. Minor spotting and browning here and there but essentially a very good, handsome copy. Signed (with his address) by Bligh Bond to a fabulous laid in section at the rear that contains an original sheet of "automatic writing" dated 30th Mar 1913, with a pencil translation. Also laid in at the rear is a small sheaf of contemporary Glastonbury related ephemera. A rather delightful find.

[Ref: 980] £375



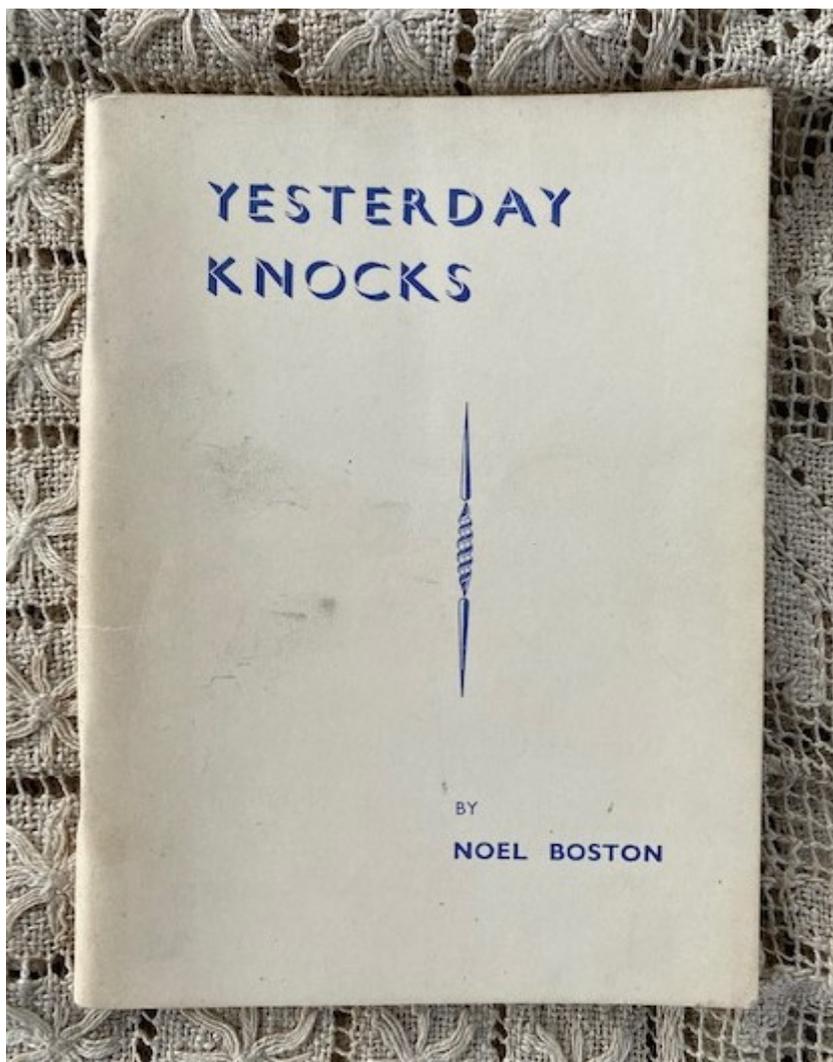
6. **Boston, Noel [Noel Bertram, Noel Bartram] (peud. Joseph Noel Thomas Boston). *Yesterday Knocks***.

Dereham: G. Arthur Coleby, [1954].

First edition. 8vo. 71pp. Publisher's original cream card wraps, titled and decorated in blue to front wrapper. Dereham related ads to rear panel. Slight soiling to the cream wraps here and there, but essentially a very good copy indeed with no appreciable wear. Internally clean. Probably one of the rarest and most elusive things I've ever handled in the writing of these catalogues; privately printed in a very small run, an ephemeral little object at best, written by a man whose other output was in a different field without much overlap who also wrote under a couple of pseudonyms (indeed for a long time it was thought he was basically another Lionel Fanthorpe pen name). This is a recipe for disappearing into complete obscurity,

especially when the end result is probably ten stories in total, of which this volume contains the first five, the rest being published in *Supernatural Stories* (the Badger Books production helmed by Fanthorpe) in the early 60's. Boston himself was apparently a quiet, sweet, pastoral sort of chap, mostly with an interest in local and ecclesiastical history, and not the sort to blow his own trumpet, his tales were clearly written for the amusement of himself and his friends (this pamphlet explains in the foreword that the collection was inspired by Gray's "Brief Tales of Granta and Gramarye" and were written mostly whilst he was on his hols in '53), and this modesty again contributes to a certain obscurity. Chuck in the fashion amongst collectors to keep every bit of information to themselves in the firm belief that they will a) live forever and b) some day get around to revealing all of their knowledge upon an awestruck community, and we have a partial explanation as to why people needed to be discovered, lost, and rediscovered ad infinitum until the internet passed its hand across the land, and it underwent a sea change. Either way, Boston was a very good creator of supernatural atmosphere, and this tiny booklet contains some very good stories, and I'm very glad to have finally made its acquaintance. Scarce.

[Ref: 972] £500



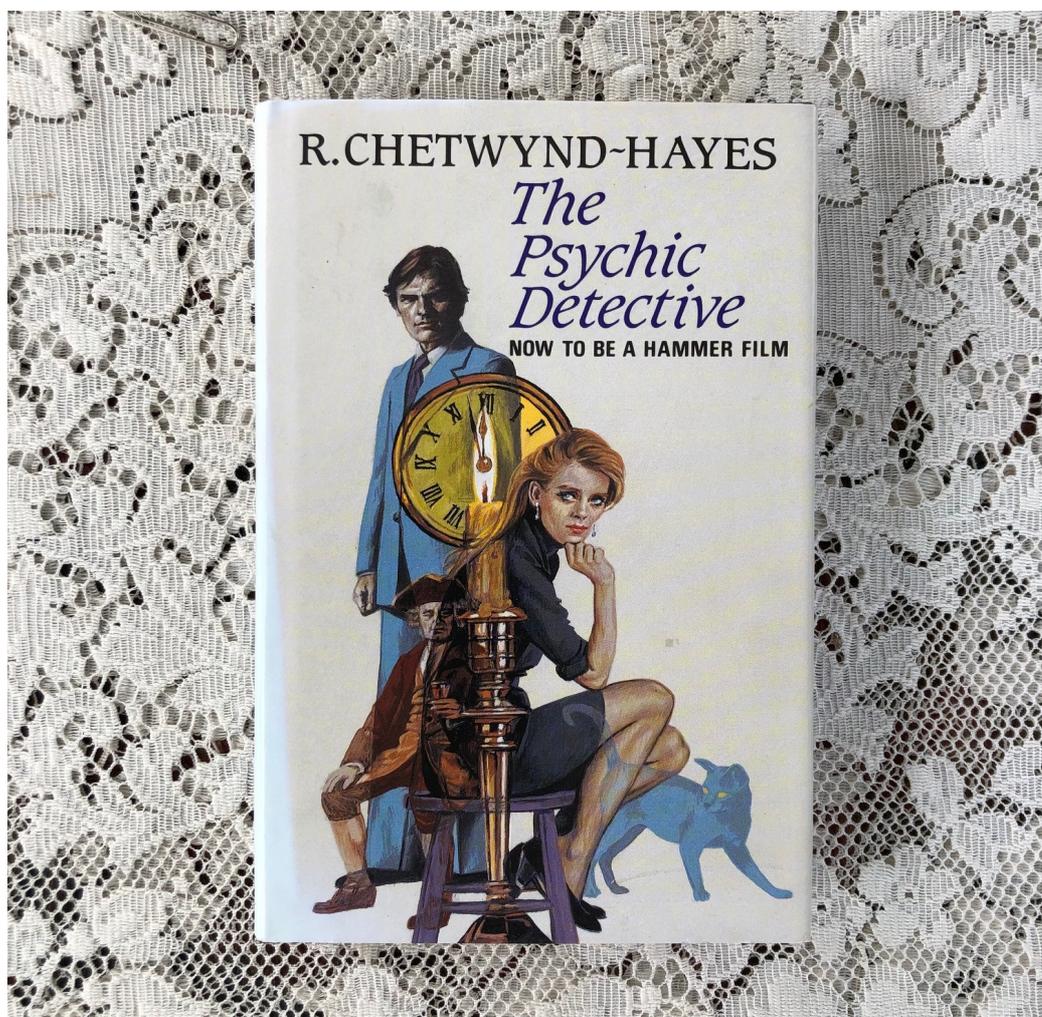
7. Chetwynd-Hayes, R. **The Psychic Detective.**

London: Robert Hale, 1993.

8vo. 208pp. Fine in publisher's cloth in an equally fine unclipped dustjacket with what I presume is some light sunning to spine. Inscribed by the author to the title page to Richard Dalby, fellow weird authority and author. A prolific if little known author of ghost stories who died of pneumonia in 2001, his stories are fast paced and articulate, occasionally a little too articulate, with more than a little of the pulp about them. This one is certifiably bizarre, including a teenage psychic who is rather overly described as attractive (Chetwynd Hayes has more than a dash of 'Carry On' about him), who breasts boobily through a series of semi-humorous, semi-chilling, scrapes with the help of her occult mentor. It's got pace, I'll give it that. The jacket states "Now to be a Hammer Film"

[Morgan Freeman as Narrator: It was not, now, to be a Hammer Film]

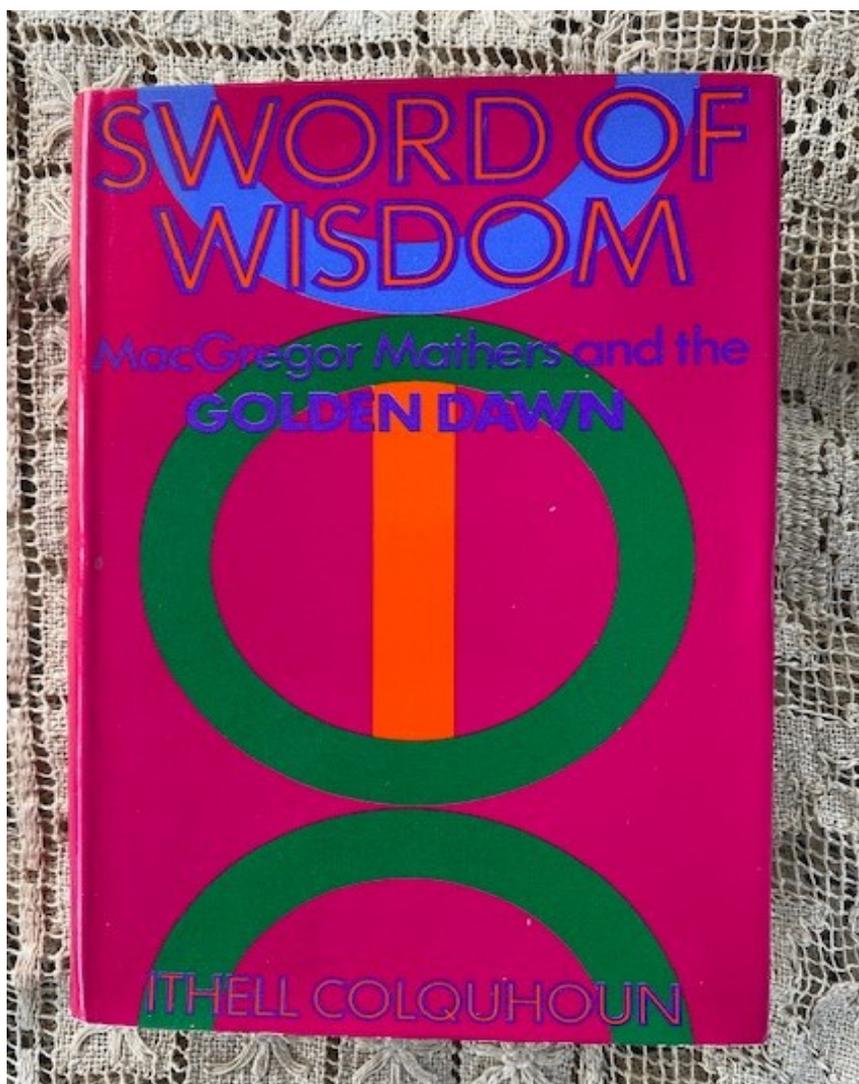
[Ref: 987] £175



8. Colqhoun, Ithell. **Sword of Wisdom**; Macgregor Mathers and The Golden Dawn. London: Neville Spearman, 1975.

First Edition. 8vo. 307pp. Publisher's orange cloth titled in gilt, a near fine copy in like dustjacket, clean, bright and exceptionally smart. Internally clean and fresh. From the collection of Richard Dalby, notable explorer of the odd, with his usual small sheaf of ephemera laid in at the front. Difficult in this condition, fascinating in any state both for the subject matter, and for the author, the luminous Ithell Colqhoun.

[Ref: 982] £175

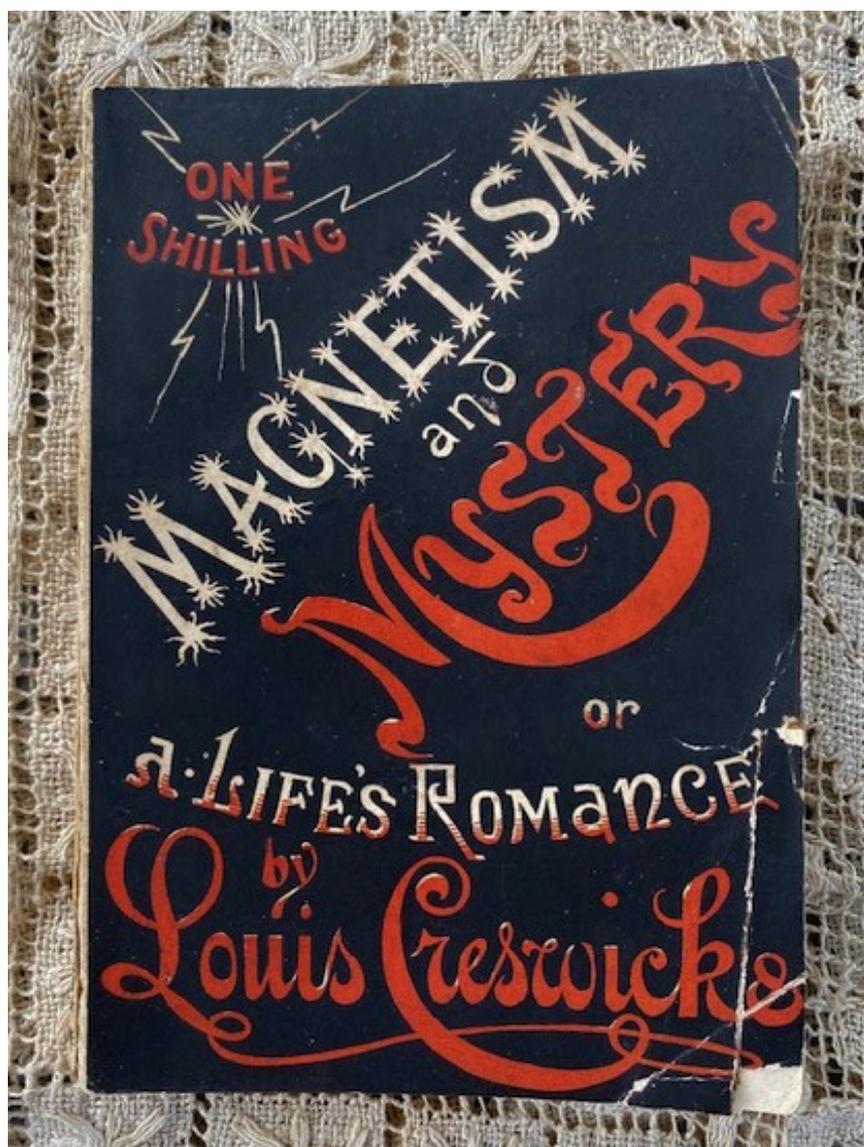


9. Creswicke, Louis. **Magnetism and Mystery, or, A Life's Romance.**

London: Simkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., [1890's].

Seventh Thousand. 8vo. 139pp. + 2pp. ads. Publisher's decorated card wraps, printed in black, red and white, with a truly splendid ad for Brooke's Soap to the rear panel. Some minor chipping and edgewear here and there, but the most significant defect would be to the bottom corner of the front panel, where the card has cracked and at some point been repaired with a corner of surface loss. Internally clean, intentionally ephemeral, essentially a very good copy of a fragile object. Louis Creswicke was at one point a pretty prolific jobbing writer, now almost completely forgotten except for his multi volume history of The Boer War (there was also a half way popular novel entitled "Love's Usuries"), this rather intense detective caper with supernatural elements has rather slipped under the historical radar. It's pretty brilliant, there's a murder, an open and shut suspect, a struggle to prove innocence, and the repeated influence of a very sinister cat. To quote one of the reviews in the back "The story...is one that may be especially recommended to railway travellers." You get a murder wrapped in weirdness, can't say fairer than that.

[Ref: 973] £300



10. **Cushing, Peter. *Past Forgetting, [and], An Autobiography.***

London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1986, 1988.

First editions of both volumes. Both are near fine copies in publisher's cloth, the dustjacket of "An Autobiography" is lightly faded to spine, otherwise they are sharp, clean, and distinguished, much like their author. Both volumes are very warmly inscribed on the title page to Richard Dalby, notable collector, correspondent, and bibliographer. Dalby was also a more than occasional dealer in rare books, and the inscription suggests that he had a hand in building Mr. Cushing's library. Laid in to both volumes is the expected sheaf of notes, clippings and correspondence, including letters from Cushing accompanying the books, discussing whether or not they are truly first editions (they certainly appear so), and thanking Richard once again for his interest, also present (and apparently supplied to Richard in order to pass on to somebody else) is a typewritten, signed account of Cushing's feelings at being awarded the OBE in 1988, in which he once again proves beyond a shadow of a doubt what a gentlemanly, generous soul he was. "I suppose I'm an incurable romantic, because I would like to have 'slain a dragon' (like St. George!) and saved the Queen's life, or done some other brave deed which would make me feel like I really deserved this honour.."

[Ref: 970] £750

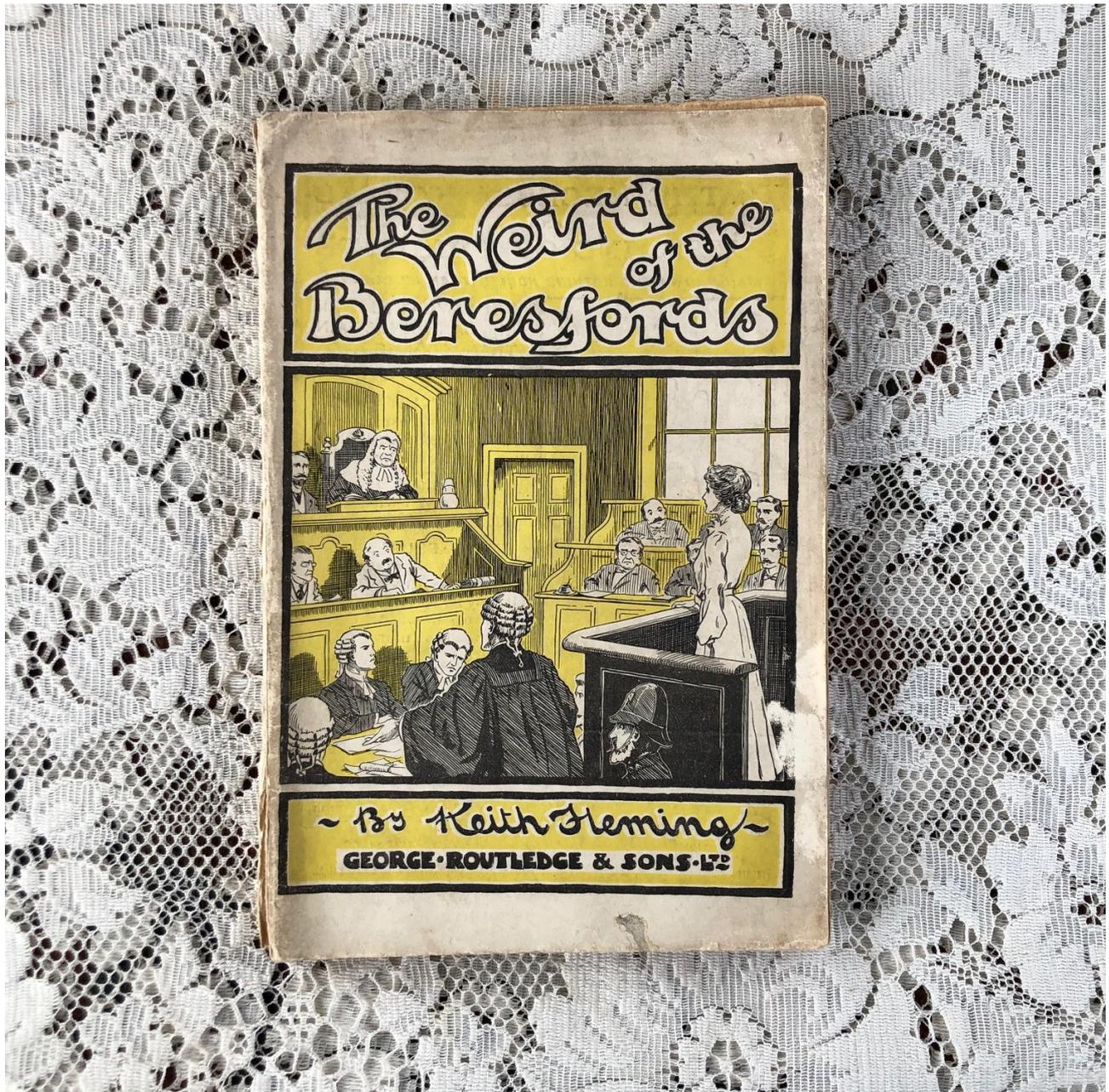


11. Fleming, Keith [Pseud: Kathleen Fitzpatrick]. **The Weird of The Beresfords.**

London: George Routledge, [1903].

Routledge paperback reprint, probably for the Railway market. 8vo. 126pp+8pp. ads scattered throughout the volume (with ads to all available surfaces on the covers). Minor fraying and edgewear, closed tear to front spine hinge extending one third of the way up the spine, a little frayed and chipped to the spine but remarkably bright and well preserved. Internally clean.

[Ref: 983] £250

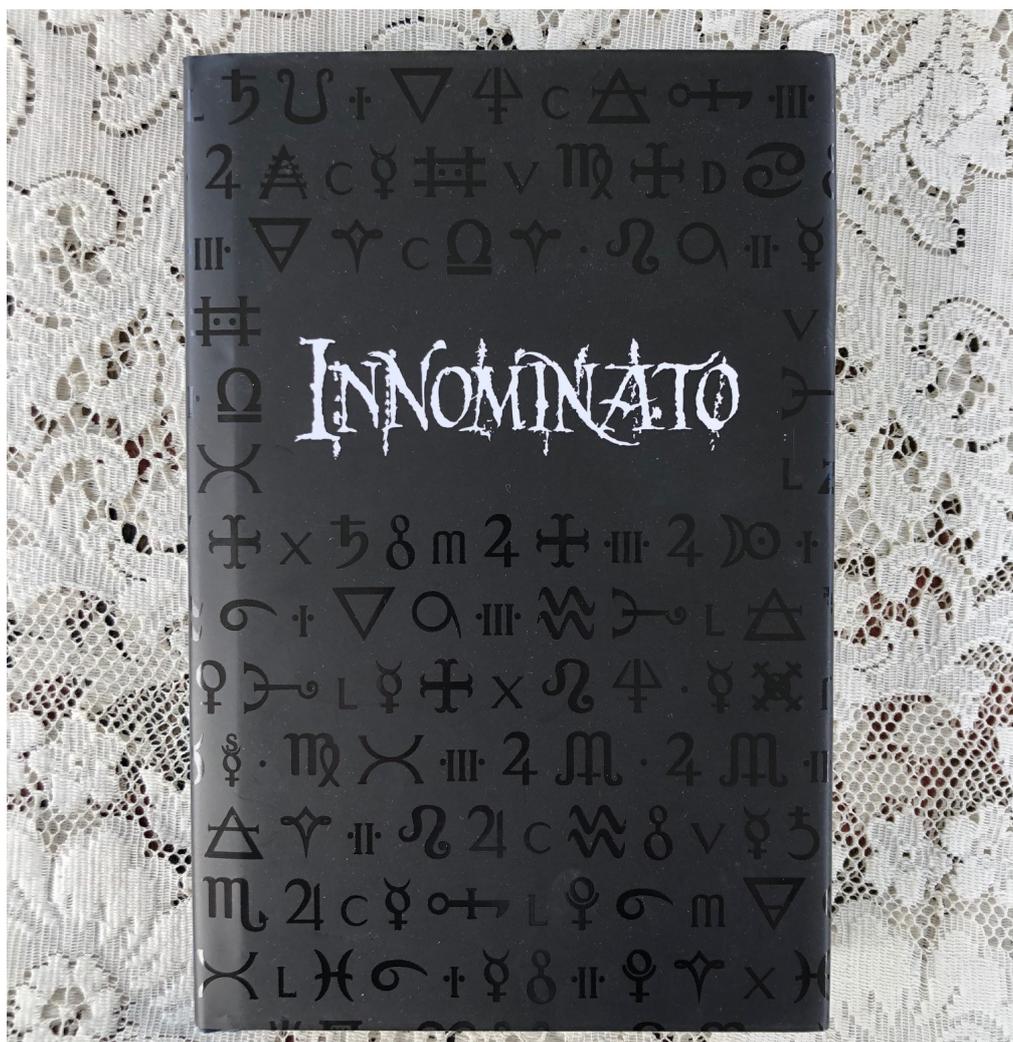


12. **Gilbert, William. *Innominato*, The Wizard of the Mountain.**

Cambridge: The Oleander Press, 2009.

First numbered limited edition (the true first was published in 1867 under the title “The Wizard of The Mountain”). #52 of 250 copies. Attractively bound in deep blue cloth, titled in gilt to spine, a fine copy in fine dustjacket, from the library of Richard Dalby, with some pieces of correspondence from the publisher, a promotional bookmark etc. A very attractively produced re-presentation of Gilbert’s supernatural stories, originally published in 19th century periodicals, collected together for the first time in 1867. The “Innominato” stories, as they are known are a kind of heady melange of found manuscript gothic weirdness recounting the adventures of a 14th century magician wandering the ruins and wildernesses of rural Italy using his mystical powers for good. Vampires, phantoms, gangs of bandits, rather overly pure maidens, and the necessary crop of villainous noblemen. Most famous as the father of W.S. Gilbert, of Gilbert and Sullivan fame, he seems to have been an aggressive, difficult man if you were a member of his family, and rather the practising philanthropist if you weren’t. A lifelong career of medicine, social reform and preaching on the perils of drink and poverty on the one hand, and a personal story of domineering, borderline abusive behavior in the home, combined with a seemingly unshakeable faith in his own rightness and the importance of getting his own way. Probably not fun to be around, but definitely entertaining to read. Scarce in this hardback limited edition.

[Ref: 966] £200



13. **Hilton, James. *Lost Horizon*.**

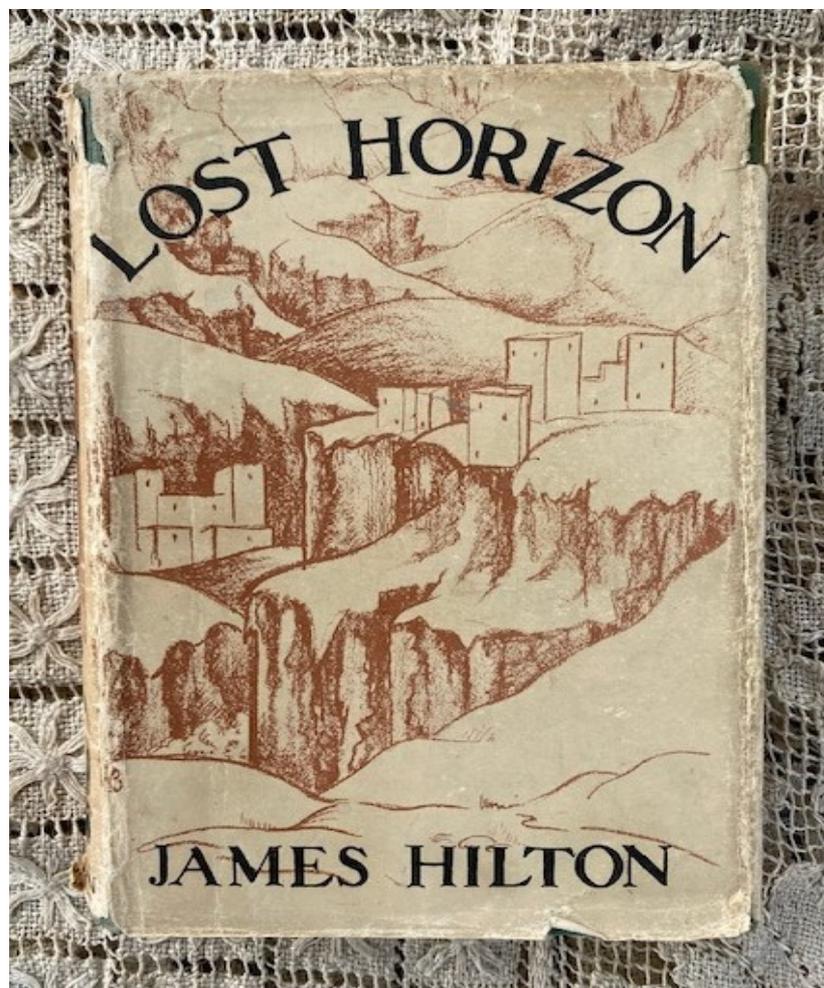
London: Macmillan, 1933.

First edition, third impression. 8vo. 281pp. + 2pp. ads. Publisher's green cloth slightly rubbed and scuffed to extremities, a few light splash marks here and there, essentially a very good copy in a slightly frayed and worn dustjacket, worn around the extremities and with some loss to the spine ends, a couple of closed tears etc. It just scrapes its way in "very good" by virtue of the fact that it's strong and relatively clean, and everything is structurally solid. Internally clean, inscribed by the author to the front flyleaf:

"Sincerely yours, James Hilton, June 1934"

It's a pretty elusive book in nice condition, but basically any inscribed copy is thin on the ground. The book that introduced the world to Shangri-La, and an absolute staple of any Lost Race, hidden utopia collection. A pleasing find.

[Ref: 979] £400

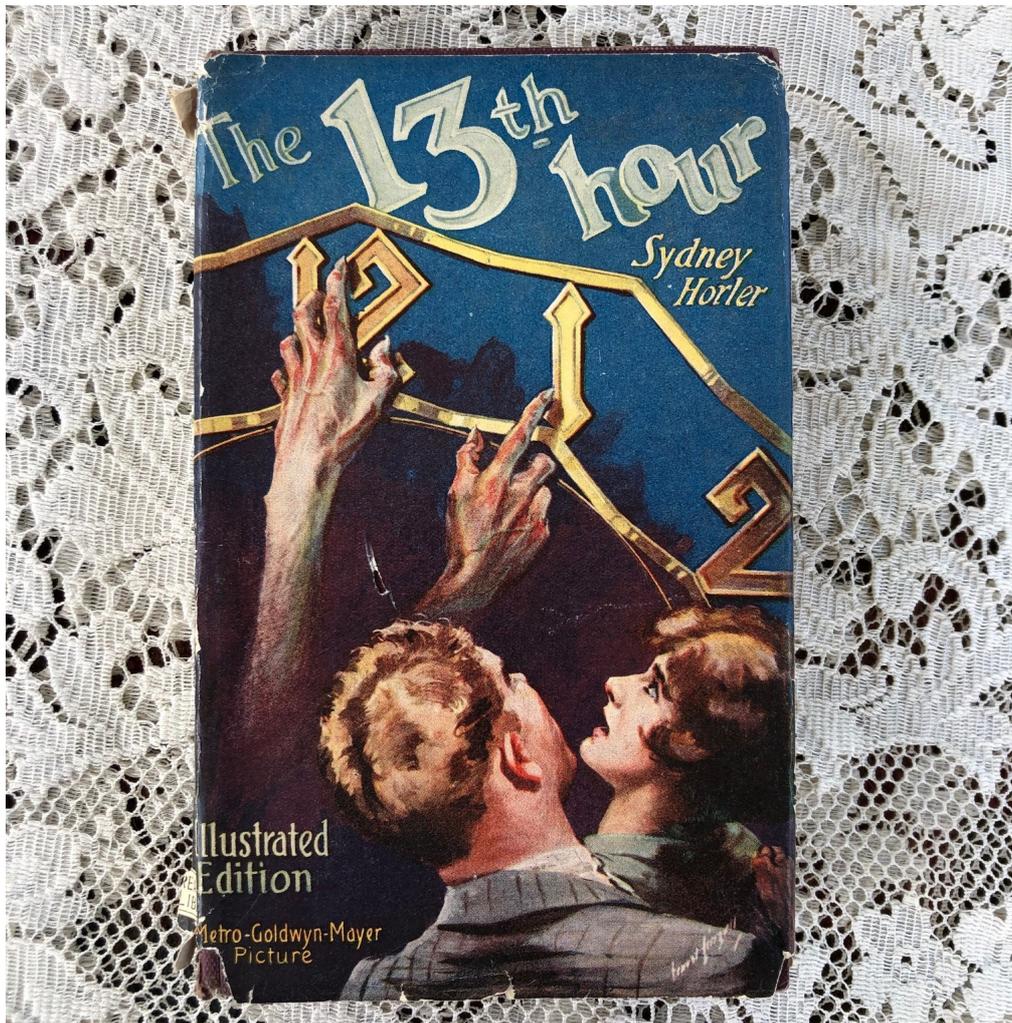


14. Horler, Sydney. **The 13th Hour.**

London: Readers Library Publishing Company, n.d. [1928].

Reader's Library edition, published to accompany the Lionel Barrymore movie, a gathering of film stills can be found in the centre of the book. Publisher's burgundy cloth gilt, slightly brighter than usual, but still gloriously pulpy in demeanour, a very good copy in a fabulously dramatic dustjacket, closed tears and some small marginal loss here and there, mainly to spine ends. Internally clean. Horler was kind of gross, but this crime caper involving an intrepid detective and his rather precocious canine partner hunting down a villainous murderer is kind of delightful. A pretty example.

[Ref: 964] £45

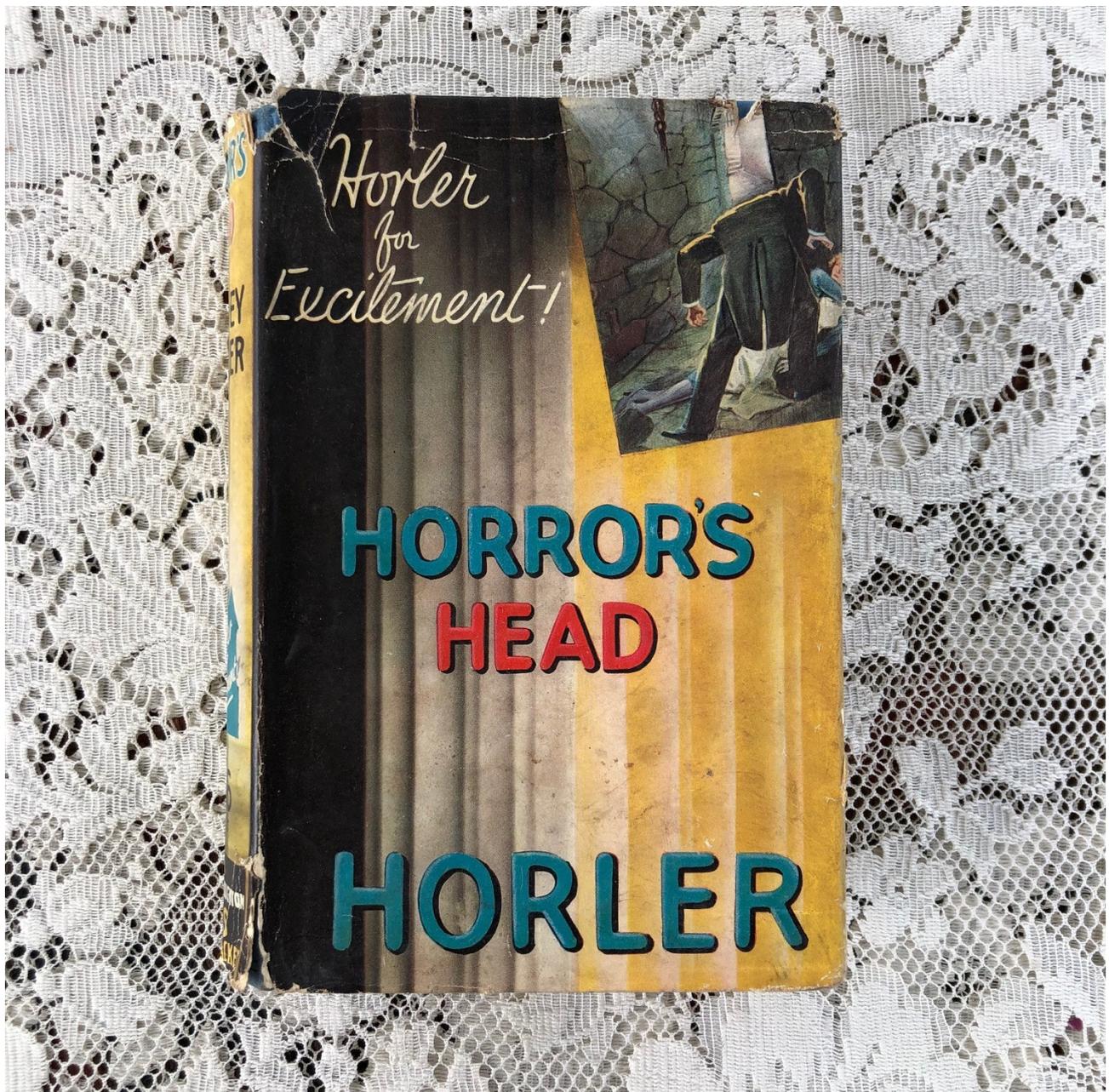


15. Horler, Sydney. **Horror's Head.**

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1933.

First edition, 2nd Impression. 8vo. 320pp. Publisher's blue cloth, titled in darker blue to spine and front board, pretty sharp and clean, with some very light edgewear, a very good copy in a bright dustjacket, some soiling to the white rear panel, some thumb marks and marginal creases and tears, some very small loss, but still rather stubbornly cool. Internally clean, some light spotting to page edges. Basically my love hate relationship with Horler continues apace; on the one hand he was a racist, homophobic man-Karen...on the other this story is about a man born WITH THE HEAD OF A WOLF! So this is uncomfortable, but if it's any consolation he isn't getting any money out of this, it goes to the estate of Richard Dalby, whose book this was and which contains another of his index cards...so that's something.

[Ref: 974] £85

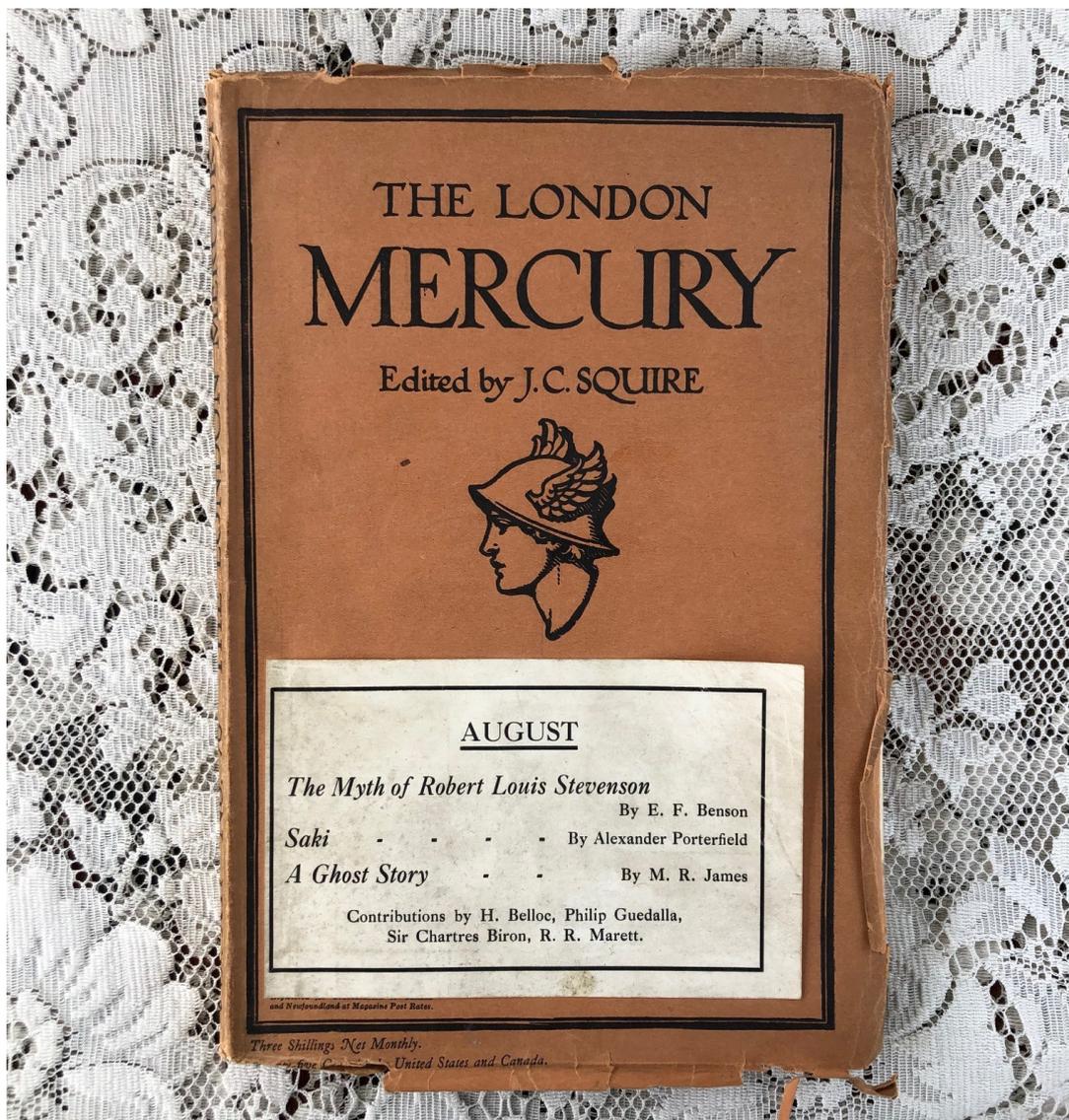


16. James, M.R. [with] Benson, E.F.; Guedalla, P.; Leighton, C. &c. **The London Mercury Vol. XII, Number 70. August 1925.**

London: The London Mercury, Fleet Street, 1925.

Publisher's orange card, yapp edged wraps, contents label tipped on to front wrap, titled in black to spine and front wrapper. Minor scuffing, fraying and edgewear, slight discolouration to the card, but overall a strong bright example of a vulnerable periodical. Internally clean. The first appearance of one of James' most famous ghost stories, published later in the year in book form by Edward Arnold. Scarce.

[Ref: 967] £150

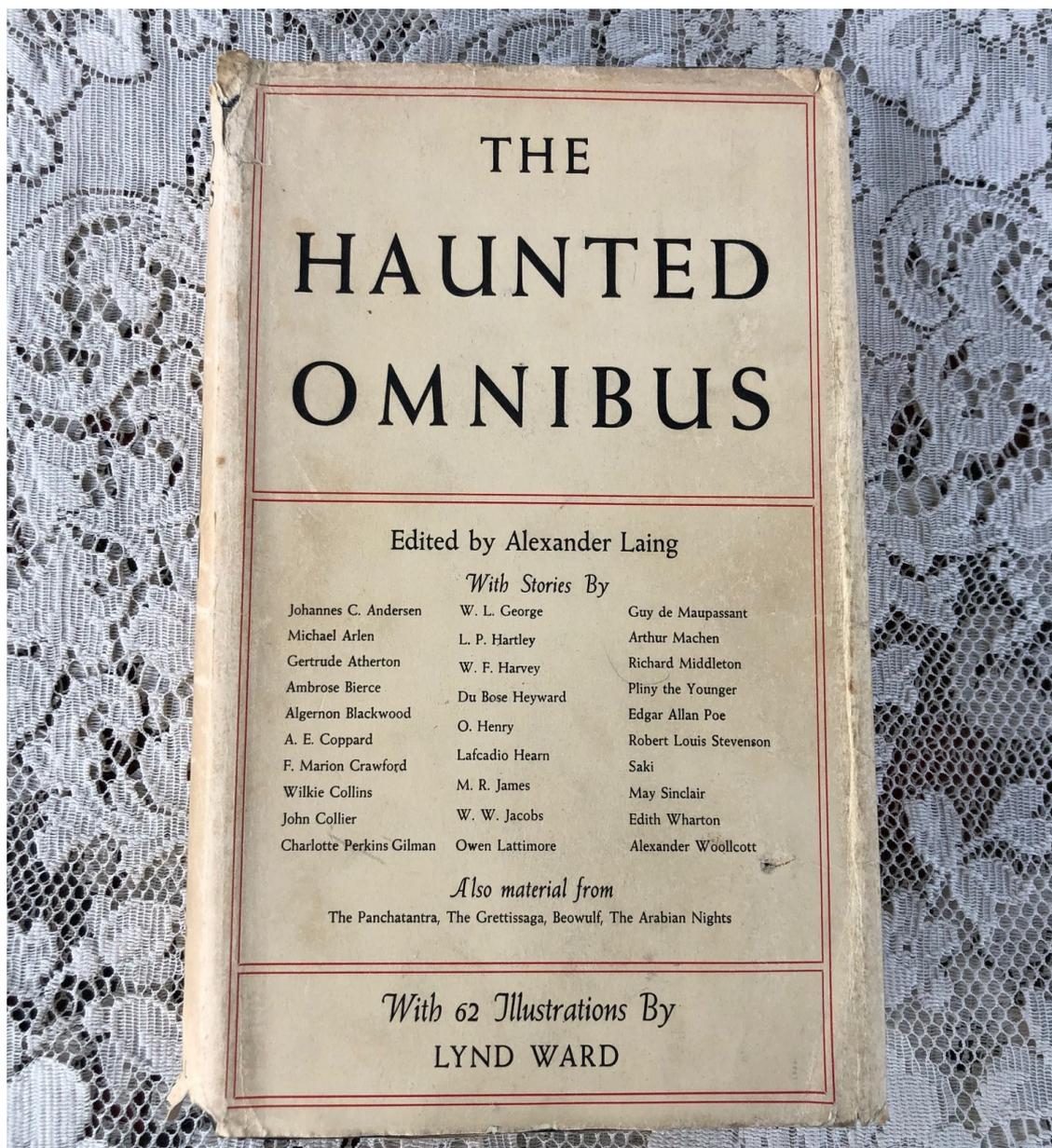


17. Laing, Alexander (Editor); Ward, Lynd (Illustrator). **The Haunted Omnibus.**

London: Cassell and Co., 1937.

First UK Edition. 8vo. 848pp. Publisher's black cloth titled in silver gilt to spine, some bumping to spine ends, small dint to front board, otherwise a very good strong copy, this

book is built upon monumental lines, and is here to stay. In a clean and bright example of the seldom seen cream dustjacket, light fraying to extremities, small losses to spine ends. Very handsome. A rather fabulous compendium of truly great stories from just about everyone; from May Sinclair and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, to James, Machen, Poe, and Pliny The Elder. [Ref: 985] £300



18. Lawrence, Margery. **The Gilded Jar.**

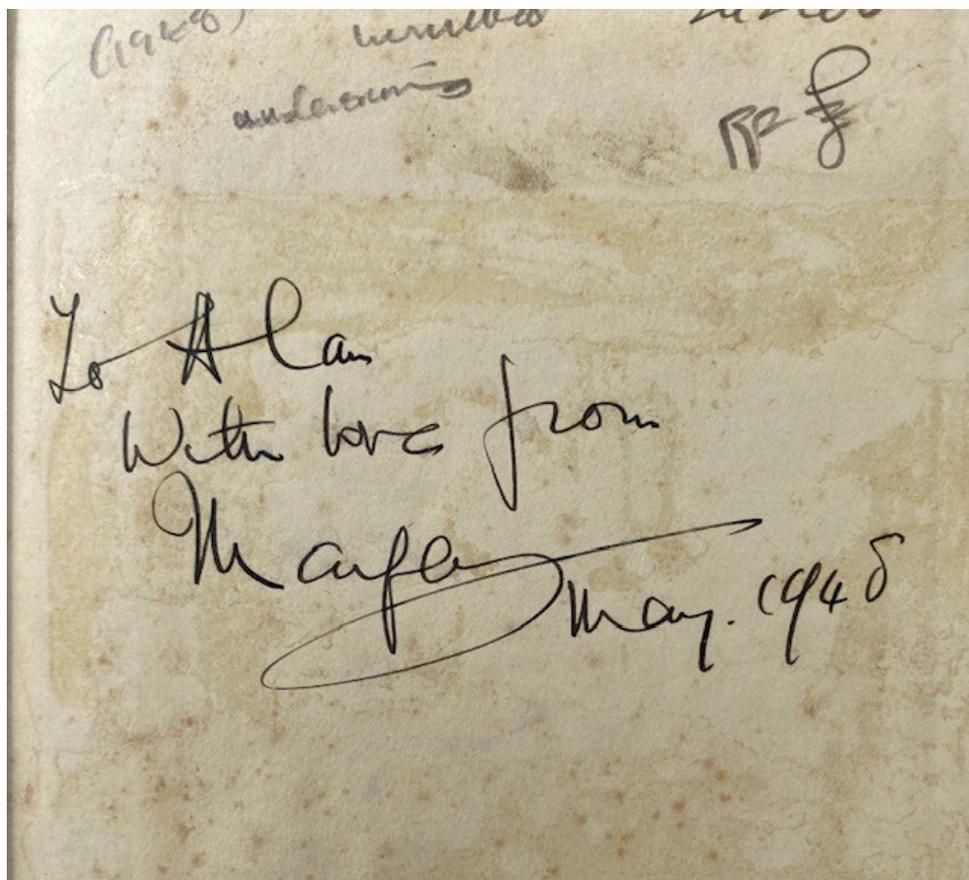
London: Robert Hale, [1948].

First edition. 8vo. Publisher's blue cloth, titled in gilt to spine, a little rubbed and scuffed here and there with some sunning and discolouration to boards. Lacks dustwrapper, which is a shame, some compensated for by the fact that it is inscribed by the great lady in the year of publication:

"To Alan, With Love from Margery, May 1948"

Internally clean with a distinctly Lockeian bit of scrawl to the front free endpaper denoting this at some point featured in a Ferret Fantasy list, the previous novels list on the verso has been used as a checklist by a pretty diligent Lawrence fan. A rather richly written tale of Soho and Gambia, with a rather lovely introduction from Lawrence. From the library of the late Richard Dalby, with some paperwork laid in suggesting this title reached him through the auspices of David Tibet.

[Ref: 862] £100



19. Le Fanu, Joseph Sheridan. **The Tenants of Malory.**

London: Tinsley Brothers, 1867.

First editions. 3 vols. 8vo. Publisher's original red-orange cloth titled in gilt to spines. Minor scuffing and edgewear, bumping to spine ends, slight discolouration and soiling here and there. Strong, tight and solid, very good, handsome copies. Internally clean, some minor spotting to endpapers and prelims. An ink ownership has been somewhat inefficiently

removed from the front paste-downs of all three volumes. Listed in Hubin, scarce in nice cloth.

[Ref: 960] £4,000

20. **Le Fanu, Joseph Sheridan. *Uncle Silas*** A Tale of Bartram Haugh.

London: Richard Bentley, 1865.

Second edition. 3 vols. 8vo. Bound in black half calf with extra gilt and red title labels. Hinge repair to volume I. Bindings strong and handsome, minor edgewear. Page edges speckled red. Internally clean and fresh. Half titles to volumes II and III. A lovely set of a scarce edition, published the year after the first. Little needs to be said about Le Fanu other than that he was amazing, a ferociously deft writer with a perfectly balanced sense of atmosphere and nuance. Arguably the inventor of the psychological thriller, fight me. This novel was described as “The finest Victorian mystery novel” by none other than Everett Bleiler, who is widely accepted as having known a thing or two. Very scarce.

[Ref: 961] £4,750

21. **Martens, Paul [pseud: Stephen Southwold, aka “Neil Bell”, born Stephen Henry Critten]. *Death Rocks The Cradle***, A Strange Tale.

[1932].

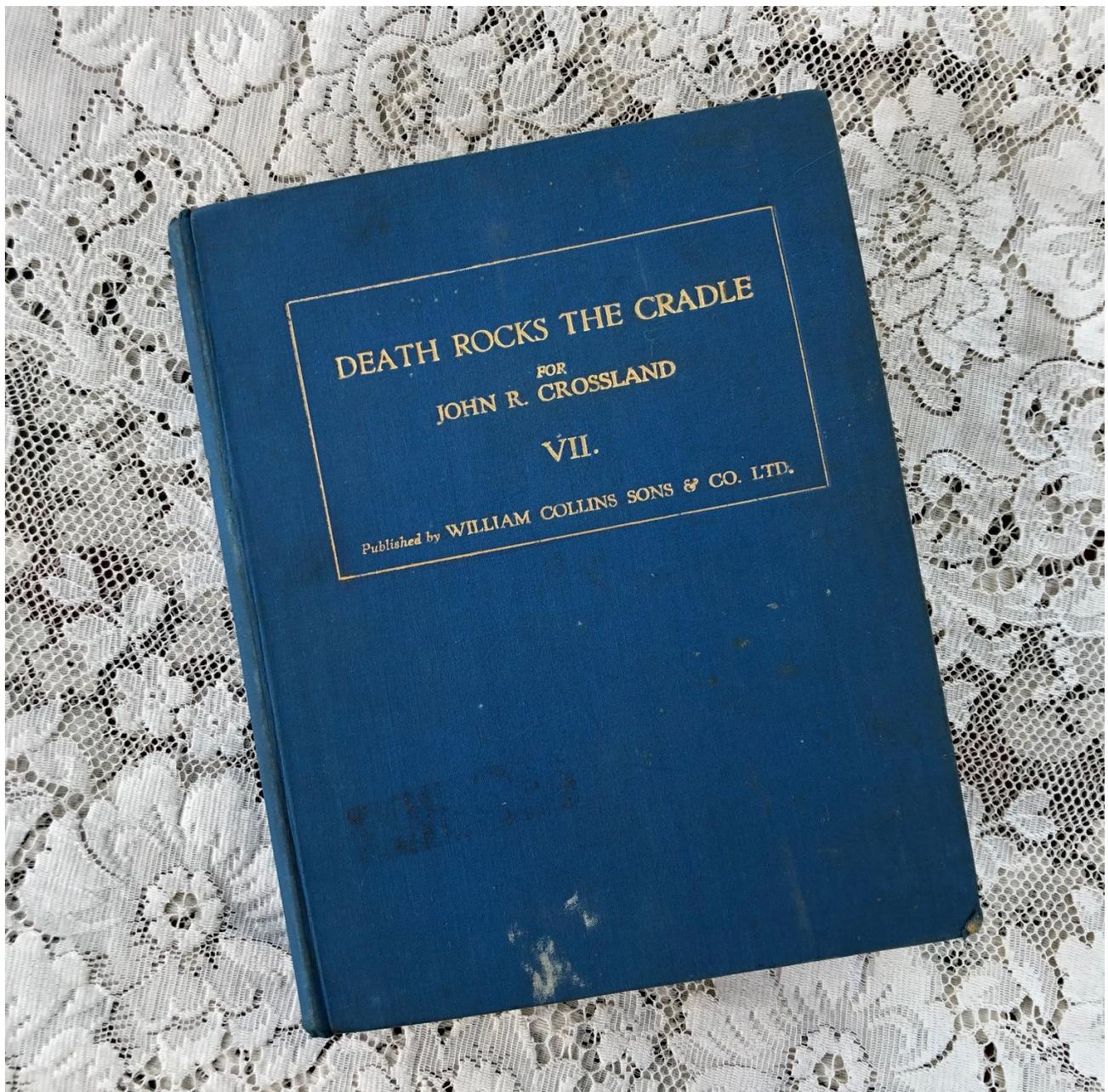
Original hand written manuscript. Quarto. 593pp. Bound in full blue cloth titled in gilt to spine and front board (there’s a handwritten note to the flyleaf in Southwold’s hand stating it was bound by Messrs. Collins the publishers), slightly rubbed to extremities, with one loose gathering, a little scuffed and soiled here and there but strong and bright. Internally clean, if a blizzard of handwritten pages with corrections, additions and corrections can be described as “clean”. It’s pretty cool. There’s a lengthy signed note in Southwold’s hand to the front flyleaf:

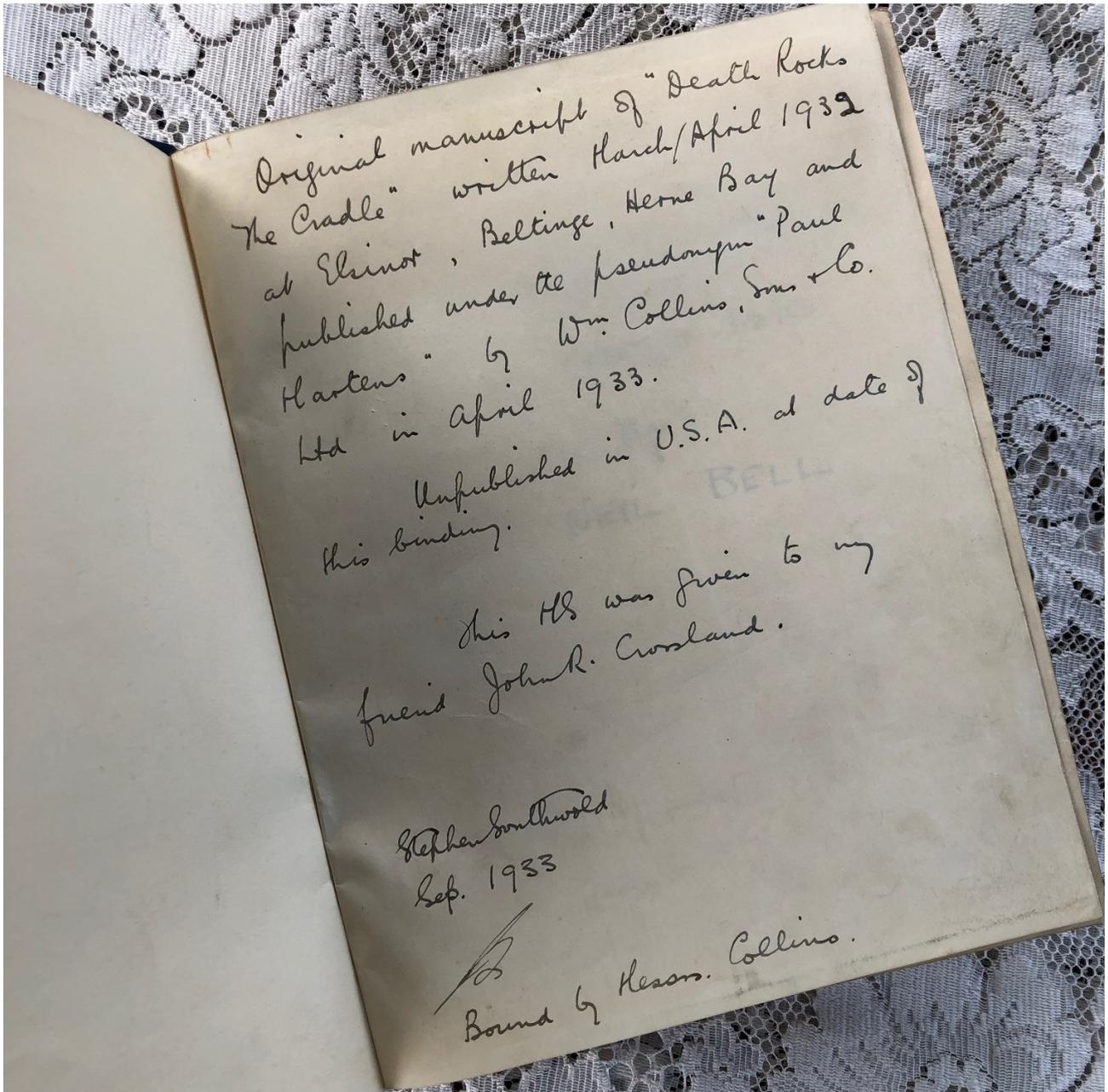
“Original manuscript of ‘Death Rocks the Cradle’ written March/April 1932 at Elsinor, Beltinge, Herne Bay and published under the pseudonym ‘Paul Martens’ by Wm. Collins, Sons and Co. Ltd. in April 1933. Unpublished in USA at date of this binding. This MS was given to my friend John R. Crossland. Stephen Southwold Sep. 1933...bound by Messrs. Collins”

John R. Crossland was actually one of those hard working authors whose work you have read without being aware, he was largely responsible for producing extensive omnibus editions, and things like the ubiquitous “Wonder Books for Boys and Girls” and the “Mammoth Book of...” series over a couple of decades, probably responsible for exposing more children to new knowledge and ideas than anyone since, with the possible exception of the great Dolly Parton. He must have had a considerable amount of professional crossover with his friend Stephen Southwold (the frequent name changes and pseudonyms came apparently as a result of Southwold’s overpowering contempt for his father, detailed in a few of his more autobiographical writings), who produced upwards of 100 published works under numerous names, ranging from poetry (he had a poem published alongside Sigfreid Sassoon in 1918, and numerous others in wartime literary reviews), to crime and children’s books, through horror, and some very visionary sci fi, of which this MS is an example. “Death Rocks the Cradle” details a rather nightmarish alternate utopia where the sick and the lame are removed to a remote penal colony in a rather complex eugenicist fashion, subjected to humiliating and degrading ‘treatments’ and ‘examinations’, voyeuristically observed through the medium of television (which is pretty good for 1932) by the ‘healthy’ members of society, there’s no economy, no money, no privacy...I mean it could be worse, it could be 2020, but it’s a rather cold, vicious and bleak examination of what happens when people start to obsessively differentiate between what constitutes “healthy” and “unhealthy.”

Southwold was nothing if not a grab bag of issues, his experiences in the First World War serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps (from '14-'19, suggesting he was almost continuously exposed to some true horror) seem to have cemented his rather bleak outlook on humans: *"And when he was nineteen the War of 1914-18 came, and he went through that long infamy, and came out with no shred or tatter of his former illusions to cover his nakedness."* He wrote of himself, in the third person (which is in itself a bad sign), reinforcing the historical fact that if you're looking for a generation of profoundly broken people, take a look at the period between 1918 and the mid thirties. Whatever else had happened to him, it didn't slow down his pen, and he wrote his way through to the early sixties with a verve and diversity of output that is tough to match, before being found dead in his car in 1964, apparently unable to keep carrying all this stuff around inside. Clearly a conflicted, curious, uncomfortable man. A splendid thing.

[Ref: 978] £1,750





22. **Nisbet, Hume. *The Haunted Station and Other Stories.***

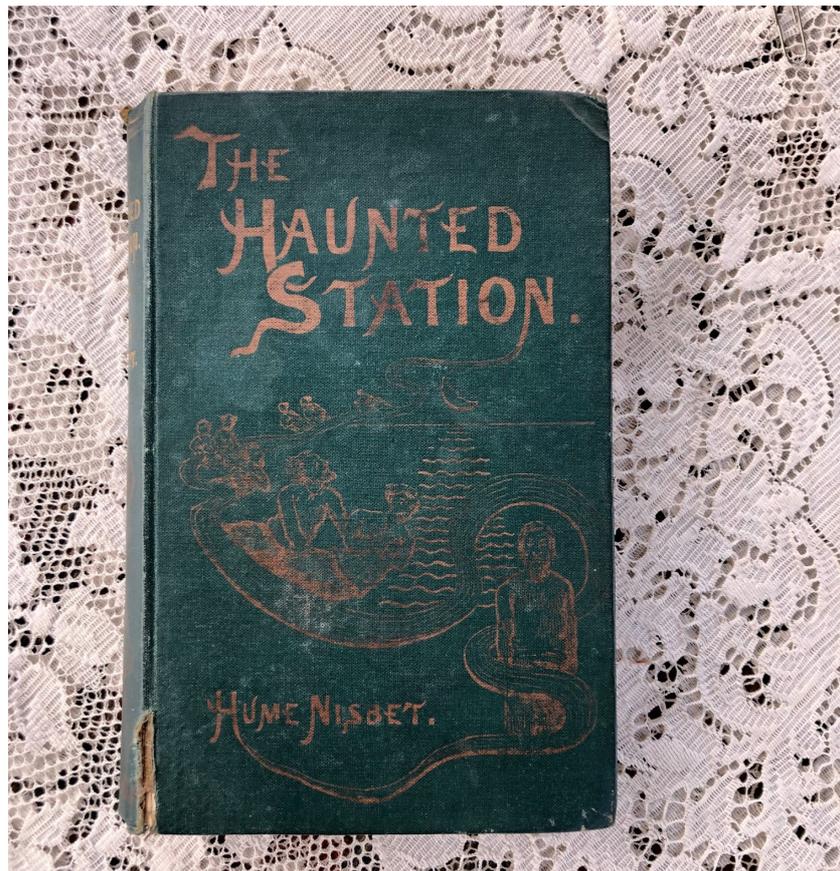
London: F.V. White and Co., 1894.

8vo. 314pp. Publisher's green cloth titled and decorated in gilt and red to spine and front board. Minor wear to extremities, bumping to extremities, a small cosmetic split to the cloth at the tail of the spine and a very slight lean. Internally clean, green floral endpapers, corner loss to the final two blank flyleaves. A stirring, if not terribly understated frontispiece depicting lost souls drifting out of the sea and vignette title page illustration are suitably in

keeping with a collection which contains not only the eponymous (and fairly often reprinted) story but also "The Demon Spell" and "The Phantom Model" amongst others. Hume Nisbet is a trifle neglected now, although the Scottish born painter and author is still remembered for his tales dealing with the Australian outback. A very good copy.

Hume Nisbet was a trained artist born in Scotland in 1849, in his late teens he travelled to Australia, later embarking on a working tour of Tasmania and New Zealand. Lack of success with his paintings caused him to concentrate more on his considerable literary output, many volumes of which fell into the category of speculative or supernatural fiction. The eponymous tale in this collection is probably his most famous.

[Ref: 976] £375



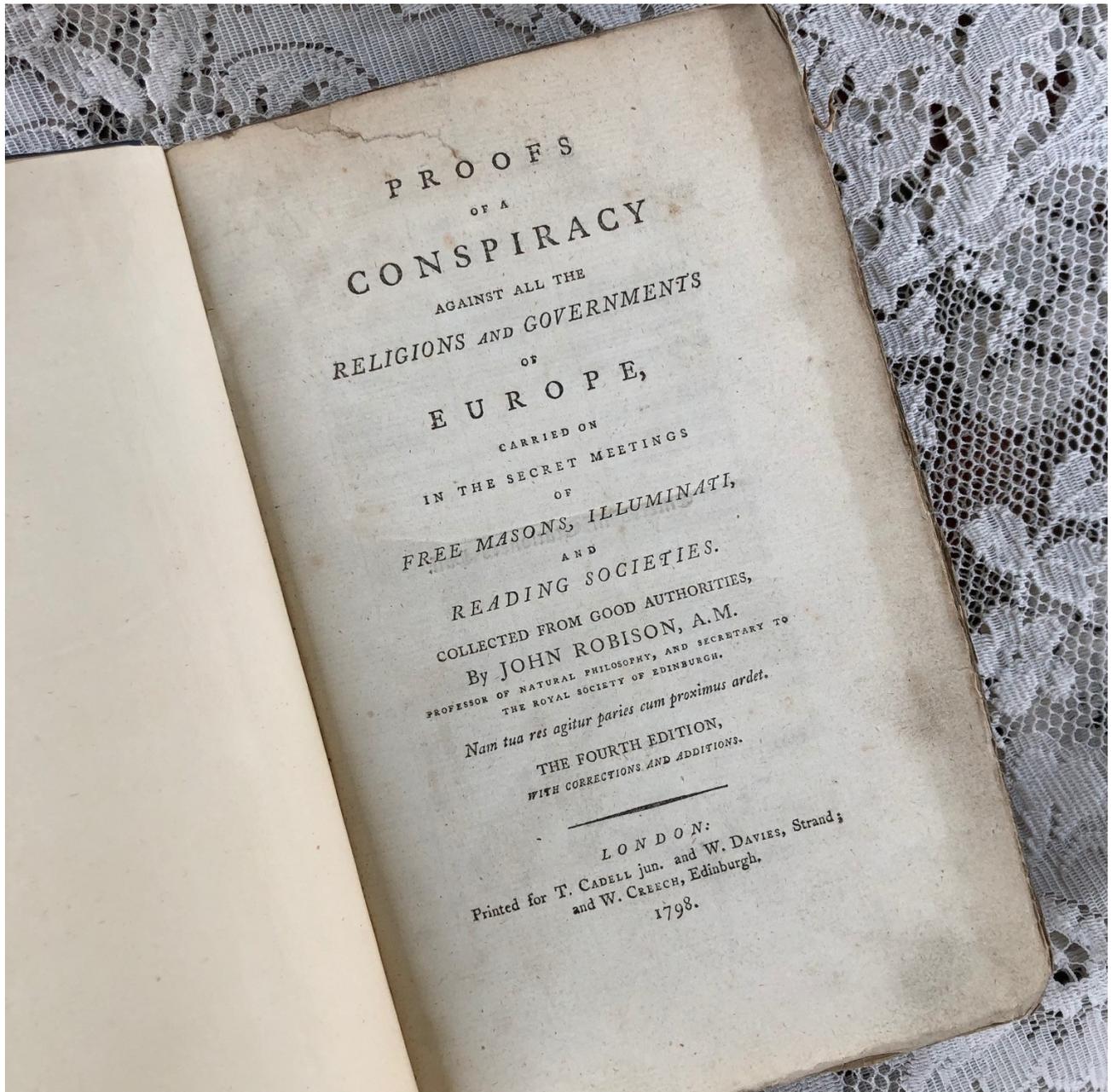
23. **Robison, John. Proofs of Conspiracy..** Against All the Religions and Governments of Europe, Carried on In the Secret Meetings of Free Masons, Illuminati, and Reading Societies..

London: T. Cadell and W. Davies, 1798.

Fourth Edition, with corrections and additions. 8vo. 587pp. Bound in original blue grey paper covered pasteboard, with a later cloth spine titled in gilt. Minor scuffing and edgewear, some discolouration of the boards, rubbing and bumping to corners, but strong, tight and delightful. Edges untrimmed, delicious soft thick paper. Gloriously stuffed with 18th century conspiracy theory lunacy. Robison himself was a noted scientist, mathematician, and professor of Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh who developed, later in life after an illustrious career, an urge to warn the world of the dangers of Free Masons, the Illuminati and any number of other secret societies. Although this work, in all its manifold swivel eyed glory, was purported to be the result of deep and intensive research but was pretty much down to Robison squeezing as much information as he could out of one chap; the rather thrilling

Alexander Horn, Benedictine Monk, secret agent, librarian, book runner for Spencer's Library, and at one point British Ambassador in Munich under Napoleon. The man could talk, and apparently Robison could listen and write. Horn comes across like some sort of Holy Roman Ninja, Robison as the eager academic who has discovered a new and awful truth. Robison's commitment is undoubted, his correspondence with Benjamin Franklin presenting the information in this volume has been somewhat immortalised in Franklin's response, which in retrospect comes across as the epistolary equivalent of nodding and backing away. An bestseller in its time, this ran to four editions in 18 months, with revisions and new disclosures. Just brilliant.

[Ref: 968] £500



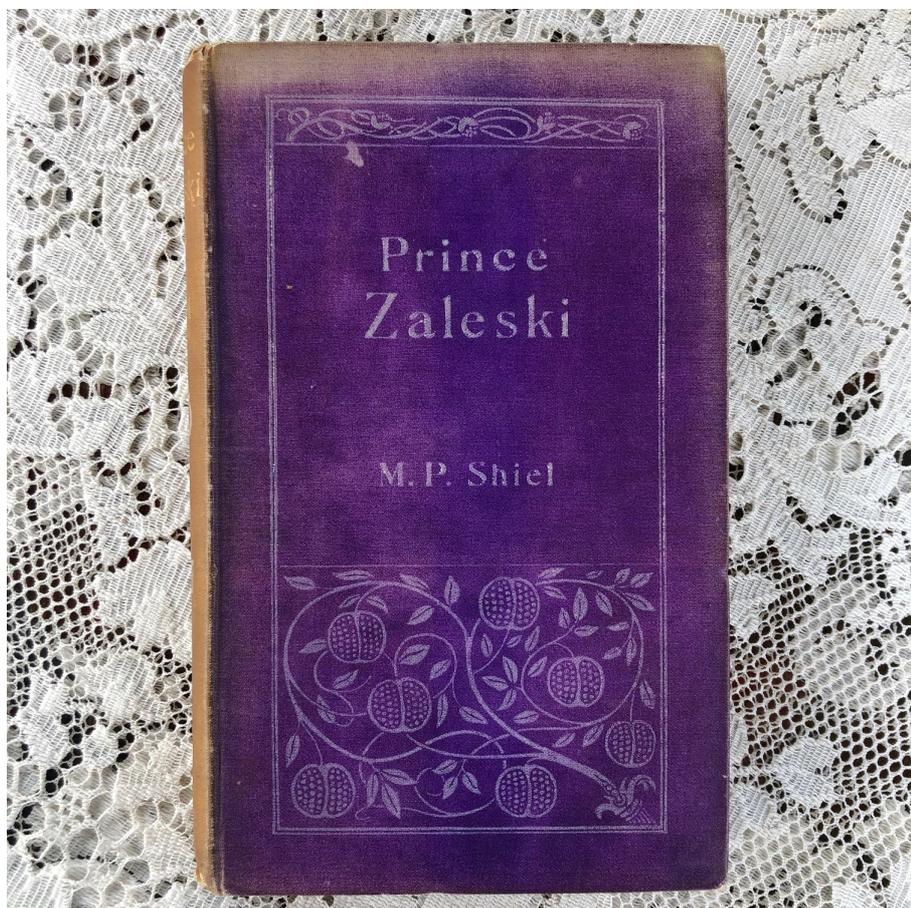
24. **Shiel, M.P. Prince Zaleski.**

London: John Lane, 1895.

8vo. 163pp. + 24 pages of ads in two booklets, because John Lane wouldn't want you to run out of books. Bound in publisher's vivid purple cloth, titled and decorated in white and gilt to spine and boards, decorations courtesy of Aubrey "So pale and interesting I make Keats look like an Australian rugby player" Beardsley. Faded to spine and with some sunning to extremities, which is what you get when your fin-de-siecle sensibilities are so keenly developed they drive you to bind books in delicate purple cloth; I am reasonably certain that the publisher in question could have turned his head slightly to the left, taken in the appearance of his first edition of *The Moonstone*, nestled next to Darwin's *Cultivation of Orchids* and thought "Hmm, maybe we'll go with a nice navy blue, perhaps mauve is not the way!" Unfortunately it was not to be, which is why title number VII in the beautiful and aesthetically pleasing Keynotes Series is usually found looking like it has recently been on a journey to the heart of the sun. This copy is better than most, strong tight and handsome despite the fading, a very good copy. Internally clean, light offsetting to the flyleaf and a couple of pencil notes to the effect that this is Queen's Quorum 19...and the word "bedroom" which considering both Shiel, Beardsley, and indeed their target audiences could be anything from an imperative, to a reminder where they left the opium.

A much sought after collection of tales featuring the exorbitantly jaded Count, lurking in his mansion occasionally dragging himself away from the hashish for long enough to solve a mystery or two from the comfort of his ottoman. Awesome, despite the fact that M.P. Shiel himself was apparently a rather vile walking cyst of a man who wrote the odd good book.

[Ref: 969] £400



25. Stead, W.T. [and Diverse Hands, including Ada Goodrich Freer]. **Borderland; A Quarterly Review & Index.**

London: Borderland Publishing Office, 1894-1897.

4 vols. Quarto. Bound in half green morocco over marbled boards, strong and handsome, sunning to spines with the deep green fading to brown, otherwise minor shelfwear and rubbing, a strong, extremely distinguished looking set titled in gilt to spines. A full run of the short lived occult and parapsychological magazine founded by intrepid journalist, social reformer and spiritual investigator, W.T. Stead. Like many of Stead's journalistic efforts, Borderland was grand, ambitious, far reaching, and ultimately not a great success. His right hand woman was Ada Goodrich Freer who, often through no fault of her own, attracted controversy like a magnet, Stead claimed to confer professionally with her almost exclusively through spirit writing and telepathy, which was bold. The magazine issues were fascinating, covering every possible esoteric corner from haunting to psychometry through spirit rapping and clairvoyance; they were also dense, filled with pomp, and a bewildering blizzard of contribution, criticism, and a frequent urge to trumpet favourable reviews. The more mainstream press eyed Stead askance, and the parapsychology and spiritualist community, as ever, were varying degrees of critical, committedly in favour, or bleakly unsupportive depending on the alignment of the spheres. The magazine, outstanding and fascinating though it was, ran until October 1897 and then folded into history. Full runs seem extremely elusive, this one is particularly clean and well preserved. Rare.

[Ref: 981] £2,500

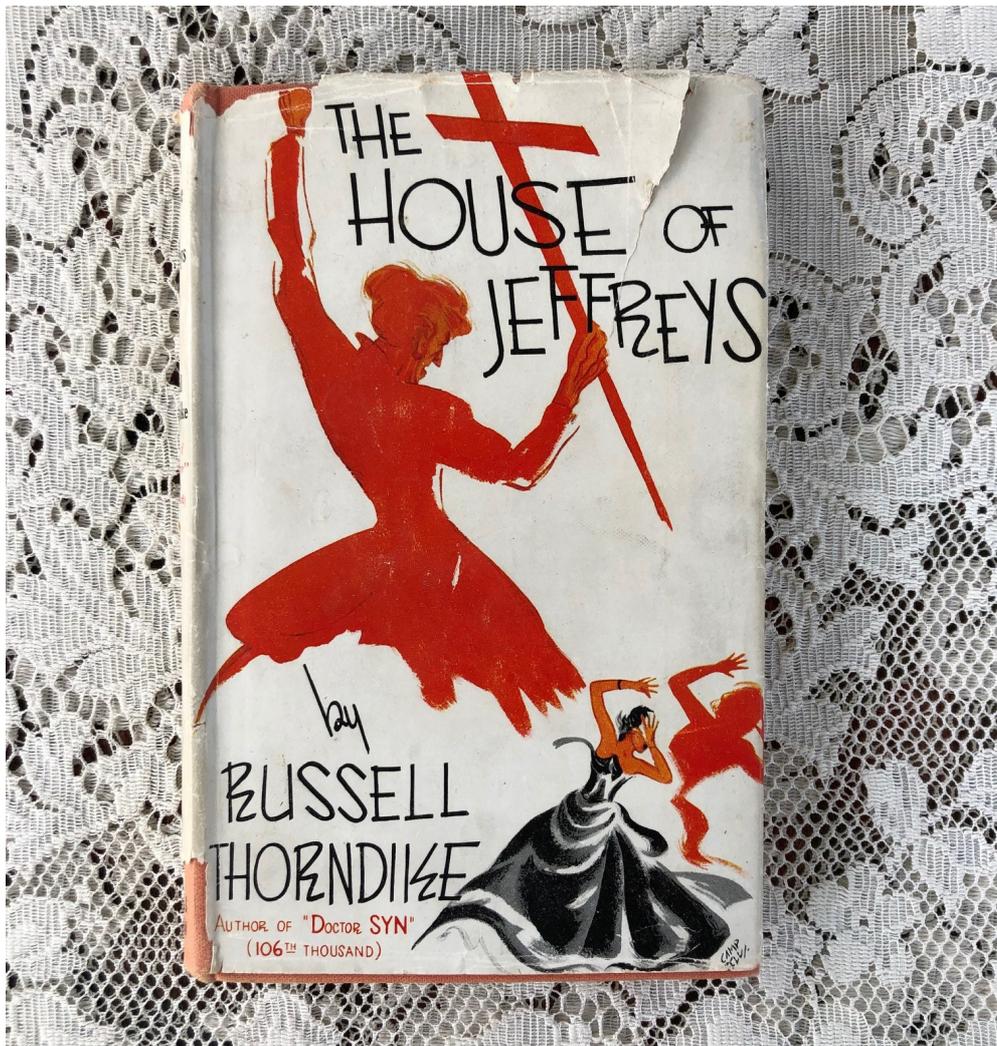


26. **Thorndike, Russell. *The House of Jeffreys.***

London: Rich and Cowan, [1943].

First edition. 8vo. 176 pp. Publisher's pale red cloth with some light uneven fading, titled in black to spine, a very good copy in a bright, striking example of the dustjacket which, technically speaking, has taken a bit of a kicking; marginal creasing and chipping, small loss to the spine ends and rear panel, and a general sense of stumbling rather than running. It's still pretty though, which is what we like. Essentially it's the tale of a woman haunted by the portrait of the sinister and cruel Judge Jeffreys, he of Bloody Assizes fame, when she moves back into his house in London...there's also a subplot which stands up to less scrutiny involving her missionary work in the "Cannibal Islands" (oh-kay...), and the potentially malign influence of her "heathen" ex-cannibal convert manservant Sabbath. There have been better handled examinations of the damaging psychological fallout of cultural collision, put it that way. A rattling yarn though, first appearing as a play in London, starring the author's sister; Dame Sybil Thorndike.

[Ref: 977] £150



27. **Walter, Elizabeth. *Snowfall, and Other Chilling Events.***

London: Harvill Press, 1965.

First edition. 8vo. 191pp. A very good copy indeed in publisher's blue cloth titled in gilt to spine, in a very good ductjacket, some minor light soiling, clean, sharp and bright. A very pretty copy. Internally clean and fresh. A review copy sent to L.P. Hartley with a letter to Hartley from Collins laid in at the front. Also present are the index cards of noted collector Richard Dalby. A collection of 5 rather excellent stories including "The Tibetan Box", the author's first published collection.

[Ref: 984] £100

