ALL BOOKS ARE SHIPPED ON APPROVAL AND ARE FULLY GUARANTEED.

Any items may be returned within ten days for any reason (please notify us before returning). All reimbursements are limited to original purchase price. We accept all major credit cards. Shipping and insurance charges are additional. Packages will be shipped by UPS or Federal Express unless another carrier is requested. Next-day or second-day air service is available upon request.
Fantastic Poster-Sized Action Photograph Of The “Thrilla In Manila,”
One Of Only 24 Copies Also Signed By Both Ali And Frazier

(ALI, Muhammad and FRAZIER, Joe) LEIFER, Neil. Large original color photograph signed. Manila, Philippines, October 1, 1975 (printed November, 1993). Poster-sized photographic print (20 by 24 inches), signed beneath the image; handsomely framed. $7200.

Click for more info

Extraordinary poster-size color photograph of Smokin’ Joe Frazier taking a punishing straight right hand from Muhammad Ali during the late rounds of the “Thrilla in Manila,” one of only 24 signed by both Ali and Frazier and the photographer Leifer, from the total edition of only 350 copies printed.

October 1, 1975 was the third time that Smokin’ Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali clashed, each having beaten the other once before. The “Thrilla in Manila” was a highpoint in Ali’s fascinating career, and is ranked by many as the greatest Heavyweight Championship fight of all-time. Leifer chronicled Ali throughout his career and captured many of the defining images of “The Greatest”— such as the present photograph. With certificates of authenticity documenting the original edition and the dates on which Ali (October 14, 1996) and Frazier (January 7, 2005) signed the piece. Fine condition.
“It Is A Truth Universally Acknowledged, That A Single Man In Possession Of A Good Fortune Must Be In Want Of A Wife”


The person, be it gentleman or lady, who has not pleasure in a good novel must be intolerably stupid.”
—Northanger Abbey
At Night The Wounded Are Taken In, And Cared For, The Dead Are Buried The Homes Are Desolated, The Hearts Are Broken And Time Moves On, How Long Oh God How Long

3. BARTON, Clara. Autograph letter. WITH: Autograph letter signed. Point of Rocks, Virginia, 1864. Two leaves of lined paper, one measuring 8 by 10 inches, folded, and one measuring 8 by 5 inches; pp. 6. WITH: One leaf of lined paper, measuring 8 by 5 inches; pp. 2; with original autograph envelope. $13,000.

Click for more info

Rare autograph Clara Barton letter, written from the front during the Siege of Petersburg and containing vivid descriptions of military encounters and the sufferings of the soldiers she cared for, together with an autograph letter signed by Barton two weeks later to a physician she served with.

In this riveting letter, “Angel of the Battlefield” Clara Barton describes recent events with the Army of the James under the command of General Benjamin F. Butler. Point of Rocks was a plantation near Chester, Virginia, that served as Butler’s headquarters. Barton, having proven her mettle, was placed in charge of the Army of the James’ hospitals. In May 1864, the Army of the James had been repulsed by the Confederates at Bermuda Hundred, but by the first of July, it was a part of the Siege of Petersburg. Because of its proximity to the James and Appomattox rivers, Point of Rocks remained a vital transfer point for supplies and wounded soldiers.

Barton describes a Confederate bombardment of the Eighteenth Corps under the command of General William Farrar Smith and the narrow escape of a portion of General Butler’s cavalry division under the German-American General August Kautz. She also offers poignant descriptions of the importance of donations from civilians to the morale of wounded men.

The second letter was written to Dr. Martin S. Kittinger (the envelope is addressed to William, rather than Martin—possibly to allow for third-person delivery), who Barton first worked with at Hilton Head, South Carolina in 1863. Martin Kittinger rejoined her in 1864, when she served with the 10th Corps hospital and the Army of the James in Virginia. In October 1864, Kittinger brought Barton’s brother Stephen Barton to her at Bermuda Hundred and served as his physician. When Kittinger resigned his commission in January 1865, Barton wrote in her diary, “No one can truly take the place of an old and true friend like DK.” This letter discusses Civil War concerns such as wounded troops.

Minor discoloration to one page, expected fold lines. Letters of Clara Barton written during the war are exceptionally scarce and very few are known besides these.
A Pictorial Record Of Israel’s First Prime Minister, Signed By David Ben-Gurion


Click for more info

First edition of a richly illustrated work that documents the profound influence of David Ben-Gurion, signed by him.

“Dedicated to an individual, this is really the portrait of an age... the man and his generation, together with what they have achieved.” With an introductory essay by Yehuda Erez, and illustrated with over 200 photographs, carefully interwoven with quotes from Ben-Gurion, this is a scarce pictorial essay of the man seen by many Israelis as “a combination of Moses, George Washington, Garibaldi and God Almighty” (*Time*). Without very scarce dust jacket. Interior fresh with trace of marginal dampstaining to rear blank and pastedown, lightest soiling to original binding. A handsome near-fine copy.

“In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles.” —CBS Interview
Presentation First Edition Of
President Biden’s Promises To Keep,
Warmly Inscribed By Him

BIDEN, Joe. Promises to Keep. On Life and
Politics. New York, 2007. Octavo, original black
paper boards, dust jacket. $3750.
Click for more info

First edition of President Biden’s first book, inscribed
in the month of publication: “I— I truly appreciate
your willingness to have me on your program. Keep
the faith. Joe 7/30/07.”

In Promises to Keep, Biden writes of his years
as Delaware’s Senator, his brief 1987 bid for the
presidency and his decades of experience in
government, as well as his talent for gaffes that have
sparked political mayhem. Praised on publication in
July 2007, Biden’s first book won quick praise
as “a ripping good read... Biden is a master
storyteller and has
stories worth telling”
(Christian Science
Monitor). A fine copy.

Signed By Joe Biden

BIDEN, Joe. Promise Me, Dad. New York,
2017. Octavo, original white paper boards, dust
jacket. $1600.
Click for more info

First edition of President Biden’s moving account
of his son’s battle with brain cancer, preferred first
printing without publisher’s “Signed Edition” on
the dust jacket, signed in black ink by President
Biden on publisher’s tipped-in leaf.

“Promise Me, Dad is Joe Biden’s poignant,
instructive and deeply affecting account of a
family’s struggle against a vicious brain cancer,
played out against the demands of his job as vice
president and the temptations of another run for
the presidency.” As the condition of his son Beau
worsened, “he called his dad to his
side and said: ‘You’ve got to promise
me, Dad, that no matter what happens,
you’re going to be all right. Give me
your word, Dad. You’re going to be all
right.’ A promise kept” (Washington
Post). A fine copy.
First Edition Of Psycho, Inscribed By Robert Bloch


Click for more info

First edition of this horror classic, inscribed: “This one I don’t remember! Robert Bloch.”

Before it was adapted for the screen and became the film classic directed by Alfred Hitchcock, Psycho was “a genre masterpiece which set the pattern for the psychological suspense-horror novel” (Barron, Horror Literature, 4-46). Book near-fine, dust jacket with tiny chip to upper corner of rear panel, bright and clean. A near-fine inscribed copy.

“We all go a little mad sometimes.”
“The Most Satisfying Children’s Book”


Click for more info

Scarce first English edition—the first to contain Charles Robinson’s eight beautiful color plates.

Burnett’s “best and most enduring work.... never ceases to gain new admirers, and has been called... 'the most satisfying children's book'” (Carpenter & Prichard, 89). Although born in England, Burnett moved with her family to the United States as an adolescent, and began writing at a young age in part to support her family. This first English edition, published one month after the first (American) edition, is the first to feature eight beautiful color plates by artist Charles Robinson. Contemporary gift inscription. Faintest foxing to endpapers, cloth with only mild wear to spine ends, gilt bright. A near-fine copy.

“If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden...”
“The First Attempt At A History Of California”:
With Scarce Folding Map And Four Copper-Engraved Plates


Click for more info

First edition in English of the “first attempt at a history of California” and an essential resource “regarding the original condition of the Indians of any part of North America,” published only a year after the first edition in Spanish, with engraved folding map of California, engraved frontispiece in each volume, and two copper-engraved plates of native life, which “appear to have been issued with but few copies” (Cowan, 238, 639), in contemporary calf bindings.

Venegas’ History “contains more on Lower California than almost any other book that had been published in 150 years” (Wagner 132, citing the 1758 Spanish first edition). “The volumes are replete with valuable geographical, historical and ethnological material not found in other works, many of the sources of Venegas’ knowledge never having been published” (Eberstadt 105: 305). “The work of Father Venegas is undoubtedly the most faithful narration we possess, regarding the original condition of the Indians of any part of North America” (Field). It is the “foundation of a library of Californiana.” Text and plates generally clean, light expert restoration to binding. An extremely good copy of this California high spot, in attractive contemporary calf.
Don Quixote, With 24 Fine Hand-Colored Aquatints
By Clark, In Four Handsomely Bound Volumes


Click for more info

Jarvis’ esteemed translation of Don Quixote, illustrated with 24 exquisite hand-colored aquatint engravings by J. Clark designed expressly for this edition, handsomely bound in full calf gilt by Lloyd, Wallis & Lloyd.

“Don Quixote is one of those universal works which are read by all ages at all times, and there are very few who have not at one time or another felt themselves to be Don Quixote confronting the windmills or Sancho Panza at the inn” (PMM 111). Charles Jarvis’ translation, one of the earliest, is also regarded as one of the best. “Published posthumously in 1742 and frequently reprinted, it is generally acknowledged as being close in spirit to the original” (Oxford DNB). Includes extensive Translator’s Preface, as well as a brief Life of Cervantes. Bound with half titles. Bookplate in each volume. Very light foxing to text, plates clean and fine, calf-gilt bindings with expert restoration to hinges and spine ends. A very handsome set of this desirable illustrated edition.

“Take care, your worship, those things over there are not giants but windmills...”
Inscribed By Michael Connelly


Click for more info

Elusive first English edition of Connelly’s first novel, one of a very small first printing issued same year as the American first edition—“original and eminently authentic”—winner of the prestigious Edgar Award for Best First Novel, warmly inscribed: “To R—I admire you for your love of books. I’m glad this one is on your shelf. Best, Michael Connelly.”

Black Echo, which won the 1993 Edgar Award for Best First Novel, is “one of those books you read with your knuckles—just hanging on until it’s over... good and thrilling” (New York Times). The novel launched Connelly’s series of novels featuring rogue L.A. detective Harry Bosch. First English edition, one of a very small first printing. First-issue dust jacket, with £15.99 on lower front flap. Preceded by the same year’s American first edition. Copyright page with small institutional inkstamp. Book fine; light edge-wear to colorful near-fine dust jacket.
“To Anyone Who Has Associated With Foot-Ball Men, Its Value As An Educational Feature In Its Own Sphere And Place Must Be Apparent”


Click for more info

First edition of this 19th-century football primer, with 16 plates including both portraits and illustrations of plays, in original cloth-gilt.

This work comprises a general overview of football as well as information about different positions, written by the talented 19th-century college football players who played those positions. This book contains a portrait of and a written contribution from Edgar Allan Poe—the famous author’s nephew and a member of the first All-American football team. Contemporary gift inscription. An exceptional copy in about-fine condition.
“One Of The Most Brilliant Treatises On War That Has Ever Been Written”


Click for more info

First English editions of Churchill’s important history of World War I, handsomely bound.

During WWI, Churchill served variously as the head of the British Navy, Minister for Munitions, and as a foot soldier in the trenches. The World Crisis offers his first-hand account of the British government’s massive efforts to win the war. Illustrated with numerous maps (many folding), charts, facsimiles, photographs, and a large folding colored map at rear of last volume. Preceded by the American editions, although “the English is more aesthetically desirable... equipped with shoulder notes on each page which summarize the subject of that page... It is more popular among collectors who wish to own only one edition” (Langworth, 108). Without errata slip in between pp. 10-11 in The Aftermath; all other errata slips called for in Woods present. Occasional faint foxing, as usual. A handsome set in fine condition.

“Europe and large parts of Asia and Africa became one vast battlefield on which after years of struggle not armies but nations broke and ran.”
First Edition In Parts Of Churchill’s Illustrated 
The Great War


Click for more info

First illustrated edition of Churchill’s important World War I history The World Crisis, in original parts. An exceptional copy.

With a new foreword by Churchill dated August 1933. Churchill’s monumental history of the first World War was first published in six volumes as The World Crisis, 1923-31; these 26 parts were issued fortnightly by Newnes from September 1933 to October 1934, “in a form which will make them accessible to a very wide public.” “Not only the best account of the most tremendous convulsion the world has ever seen, but one of the most brilliant treatises on war that has ever been written” (Spectator). With hundreds of photographic illustrations, maps, and plans. Index in part 26. Woods A31a. Bookplates on chemises. A lovely set, overall very nearly fine, much nicer than typically found.

“This Is Not History: This Is My Case”


Click for more info

First English editions of Churchill’s WWII masterpiece, part history and part memoir, written after he lost reelection as Prime Minister, handsomely bound.

The six volumes of Churchill’s masterpiece were published separately between 1948 and 1954. “The Second World War is a great work of literature, combining narrative, historical imagination and moral precept in a form that bears comparison with that of the original master chronicler, Thucydides. It was wholly appropriate that in 1953 Churchill was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature” (Keegan, 175). Although preceded by the American editions, the English editions are generally preferred for their profusion of diagrams, maps, and facsimile documents. Fine condition.
“Not Such A Hound As Mortal Eyes Have Ever Seen”


First edition, first issue, of the third Sherlock Holmes novel, widely regarded as the best of the series, with 16 illustrations by Sidney Paget. A beautiful copy.

Although Conan Doyle had killed off his most famous character by sending him over the Reichenbach Falls while grappling with Professor Moriarty in “The Final Problem” (December 1893), his readership demanded the sleuth’s return. The author obliged with this, the third—and still considered by many the best—Sherlock Holmes novel, carefully positioned on the title page as “another adventure” of Holmes. The Hound of the Baskervilles remains “one of the most gripping books in the language” (Crime & Mystery 100 Best 6). Without extremely scarce dust jacket. Interior clean, with none of the usual foxing, only slightest toning to spine, gilt exceptionally bright. A beautiful copy of this classic.

“Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!”
“Simply The Best Set Of Illustrations Ever Done On The Crusades”


First American edition and first edition in English to appear with Gustave Doré’s illustrations, with 100 dramatic full-page wood engravings by Doré, two folio volumes in handsome publisher’s morocco-gilt.

While *The Crusades* never proved to be one of Doré’s most popular works, it is certainly one of his most powerful. “With this set of 100 full-page folio engravings, Doré for once restrained his wild imagination to do a straight historical subject, and he showed once again that there was no field of visual expression at which he did not excel... Though the *Crusades* engravings are historical, they lose none of Doré’s normal personality and vigor. They are simply the best set of illustrations ever done on the Crusades” (Malan, 137). “On the general history of the Crusades the best single work is still J. Michaud, *Histoire des Croisades*” (Schaff-Herzog, 318). Michaud’s comprehensive *Histoire des Croisades* was first published in French in seven volumes between 1812 and 1822. The Doré-illustrated edition was first published in France in 1877; this first English-language edition (no edition was published in England—possibly due to Michaud’s less-than-reverent treatment of Richard the Lionheart) was first issued in parts from 1878-80, and then issued in book form by George Barrie of Philadelphia, with undated title pages, in two folio volumes measuring 11 by 15 inches, shortly thereafter. About-fine condition.
In response to the content of his correspondent’s manuscript, Einstein here dismisses the argument by analogizing a planet to a shell shot out of a cannon. Since such a projectile can be directed as one wishes, Einstein argues that it is possible to affect the orbit of the planets through similar “arbitrary actions”; therefore “there can be no principal law from which one could draw conclusions about the elementary laws [of planetary objects].” The argument that the distribution of the planets in our solar system is the result of the working of a higher intelligence goes back at least as far as Plato, and was perhaps most famously argued in the modern era by Kepler. Einstein’s argument here suggests that he saw the present order of the solar system more as a matter of chance, rather than a product of divine design. Expected fold lines, one marginal tear neatly repaired on the verso, not affecting text.
"No Work Can Compare To Euclid's Elements In Scientific Importance": 1651 Second English Edition


$7000.

Scarcie first Rudd edition of Euclid’s Elements in English—only the second edition in English of the Elements overall—including the preface by John Dee, illustrated with woodcut geometrical diagrams, bound together with a first edition of Rudd’s Practical Geometry.

“No work can compare to Euclid’s Elements in scientific importance” (Rosenbach 19:225). Authored by Euclid in the 4th century B.C., “this is the basic treatise in geometry. ‘No work presumably except the Bible has had such a reign’” (Horblit 27). “Euclid’s Elements is a compilation of all earlier Greek mathematical knowledge since Pythagoras, organized into a consistent system so that each theorem follows logically from its predecessor; and in this simplicity lies the secret of its success. Of the 13 books into which it is divided, numbers 1 to 4 are on plane geometry; 5 and 6 on the theory of proportion due to Eudoxus and its application; 7 to 9 on the properties of numbers; 10 on irrational quantities; 11 to 13 on solid geometry culminating in the proof that there are only five regular solids; books 14 and 15 were added later but are not by Euclid... The Elements remained the common school textbook of geometry for hundreds of years” (PMM 25, citing the 1482 first edition published in Venice by Erhard Ratdolt).

At the age of 43, the editor of the present edition, engineer and mathematician Thomas Rudd “was summoned to return to England to become chief engineer of all castles, forts, and fortifications within Wales at an annual salary of £240. Subsequently he was appointed the king’s principal engineer for fortifications... Rudd’s last years were devoted to mathematical studies and publications. Practical Geometry was published in London in 1650. The book was described on the title page as ‘a worke very necessary for all Men, but principally for Surveyors of Land, Engineers, and all Other Students in the Mathematicks.’ Another book on geometry was Euclides Elements of Geometry, published in 1651. Both books were described as being by Captain Thomas Rudd, chief engineer to his late majesty” (ODNB). Preceded in English only by the Billingsley version published in 1570; Rudd’s edition includes the celebrated “Mathematical Preface” by John Dee that first appeared in that 1570 edition. Early owner calculations on blank verso of final leaf of text. Only a few minor spots of foxing, very short closed tear to title page, not affecting letterpress. Binding fine and attractive.
Rare Manuscript Leaf Of Calculations, Written Entirely In Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist Richard Feynman’s Hand


Click for more info

Fascinating and rare manuscript leaf of mathematical calculations, very likely lecture notes for a graduate course that Feynman taught on the mathematical methods of physics at Caltech during the early 1970s, written on the recto entirely in Richard Feynman’s hand.

Richard Feynman was an “American theoretical physicist who was widely regarded as the most brilliant, influential, and iconoclastic figure in his field in the post-World War II era. Feynman remade quantum electrodynamics—the theory of the interaction between light and matter—and thus altered the way science understands the nature of waves and particles. He was co-awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1965” (Britannica). About-fine condition, with only mildest edge toning and rough top edge from notebook removal.
“Whom Have You Been Sent Over To Kill Here, Mr. Bond?”


Click for more info

Scarce first edition of Fleming’s second James Bond novel, “full of pace, incident and color” (Lycett, 238)—in which 007 investigates an underworld voodoo leader who is suspected of selling 17th century gold coins to finance Soviet spy operations in America—in the rare first-issue dust jacket.

“Before Casino Royale was published [in 1953], Fleming had already researched and written what was originally to be called The Undertaker’s Wind. Far from repeating the formula of his first success, this [book] was a world away from the sinister style of a luxurious European gambling resort” (Black, 10-11). First-issue dust jacket, without credit for jacket design and art. Book with faint foxing to endpapers and text block edges only; price-clipped dust jacket bright and beautiful. A wonderful copy.

“To Begin With He Was Ashamed Of Himself—a Rare State Of Mind”


Click for more info

First edition of Fleming’s ninth Bond novel, featuring the first appearance of the superspy’s memorable nemesis, the villainous mastermind behind SPECTRE, Ernst Blofeld, who steals two nuclear warheads and threatens the world.

“Thunderball represented a new departure [for the Bond series], with the introduction of SPECTRE and of Ernst Blofeld, a commanding villain who was to reappear. This gave a measure of continuity to the later Bond novels... Thunderball worked well as an adventure story... the theme of the theft of atom bombs seemed pertinent and modern” (Black, 49, 55). This adventure, due to credit and rights controversy, was adapted twice to the screen: under the present title in 1965 and as Never Say Never Again in 1983—both times starring Sean Connery; in the 1965 film Claudine Auger played Domino, while Kim Basinger played that role in 1983. Book fine, dust jacket bright and near-fine with only faintest shallow dampstain along top edge and minor rubbing to extremities.
“I Would Remember Him Forever As My Image Of A Man”


Click for more info

First edition of Fleming’s tenth Bond thriller—the author’s unusual examination of his super-spy “from the other end of the gun barrel.”

“A significant departure from usual,” The Spy Who Loved Me, in which 007 appears only toward the end of the book, proved to be “the easiest thing [Fleming] had ever done” (Lycett, 381). Although the title page lists the book as being written by Ian Fleming with Vivienne Michel, the “coauthorship credit is a hoax: Vivienne Michel was the name of the wife of one of Fleming’s golfing companions in Jamaica” (Biondi & Pickard, 47). With quad mark between “E” and “M” of “Fleming” on title page (no priority established). Made into the 1977 film of the same title, starring Roger Moore and Barbara Bach. Book fine, dust jacket very nearly so. A lovely copy.

“You See, We’ve Got All The Time In The World”


Click for more info

First trade edition of the eleventh Bond novel, in which 007 takes a bride, only to have his happiness cut short by the schemes of his archnemesis, Ernst Blofeld.

Published simultaneously with the signed limited edition of 250 copies, the 11th James Bond novel—the first published after the debut of the Bond film series—became “an immediate bestseller on both sides of the Atlantic” (Biondi & Pickard, 53). George Lazenby, in his only outing as the secret agent, starred in the 1969 film version, with Diana Rigg as Tracy and Telly Savalas as Blofeld. Book fine, dust jacket very nearly so.
First Revised & Expanded Edition Of Hemingway's *In Our Time*, One Of His Very First Books, In Scarce Original Dust Jacket


Click for more info

First revised and expanded edition of *In Our Time*, first Scribner’s edition of the first of Hemingway’s books published in the United States, newly featuring his “Introduction by the Author” (later retitled as “On the Quai at Smyrna”), along with revisions to two short stories, in rarely found dust jacket with the dramatic gold and black printed design by Cleonike.

This revised and expanded 1930 edition of Hemingway’s *In Our Time* is the first to include his “Introduction,” which is the first printing of his story later retitled, “On the Quai at Smyrna.” In addition, this important edition includes his revisions to “A Very Short Story” and “Mr. and Mrs. Eliot.” This superb collection of stories presented a number of Hemingway’s finest short pieces to the American public, including “Indian Camp,” “The Battler,” “The Three Day Blow,” and both parts of “Big Two-Hearted River.” In 1924 Three Mountains Press in Paris published the similarly titled *In Our Time* in an edition of only 170 copies; that much-shorter work contained only the vignettes that are here called “Chapters” and interspersed among the 15 longer stories collected here for the first time. Preceded by the Boni & Liveright 1925 edition, 1926 London first edition. On acquiring the plates, bound stock and reprint rights, Scribner’s issued this revised and expanded edition in 1930. With original blue dust jacket, printed gold and black, design by Cleonike. Book about-fine; price-clipped dust jacket with mild toning to spine and two faint stains to rear panel, shallow rubbing to corners, extremely good. An attractive copy.

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“This Is Immediate, Unmistakable Hemingway”


Click for more info

First edition, featuring the first printing of Hemingway’s only full-length play and his “first 49 stories,” a splendid copy.

This early and important Hemingway collection features his only full-length play, inspired by his experiences in the Spanish Civil War, with a heroine clearly based on fellow journalist Martha Gellhorn, his future wife. Also included are all of his previously published stories written to date, along with four uncollected stories. To critics, *The Fifth Column and the First Forty-Nine Stories* is electrified “by the dominating presence of the author, who is to be found alive on every page... This is immediate, unmistakable Hemingway” (*New York Times*). Book fine; only lightest edge-wear to nearly pristine about-fine dust jacket. Beautiful and rare in this condition.
“Loimologia Gave Defoe His Starting Point“:
Seminal First Edition In English Of Dr. Hodges’ “First-Hand Account Of The Aetiology, Epidemiology And Symptoms Of The Plague”


Click for more info

First edition in English of the British physician's classic on the 1665 Great Plague of London, a major source for Defoe’s 1722 *Journal of the Plague Year*, with the translation into English by Dr. John Quincy, whose *Essay of the Different Causes of Pestilential Diseases* first appears here.

Dr. Hodges “exposed himself to extreme danger... [as] one of the few physicians who stayed in London during the outbreak of plague in 1665” (Kings College London). “Loimologia gave Defoe his starting point” for his *Journal of the Plague Year* (Nicholson, 70-71). This first edition in English, translated from the 1672 first edition in Latin by Dr. John Quincy, is especially significant in that it was issued in London the same year as the Marseilles plague—“the most virulent to enter Europe since the Black Death of 1347-49” (Hammond & Sturgil). *Loimologia* remains “an important text in the early history of epidemiology and public health” (Byrne, 103-4, 175-76). This first edition also features the first edition of Dr. Quincy’s *Essay... of Pestilential Diseases*. *Loimologia* initially appeared in Latin in a 1671 edition that was issued without Quincy’s *Essay. Loimologia* without folding “Table of the Funerals,” often lacking. Interior generally fresh with occasional light dampstaining, a few leaves with marginal wormholes minimally affecting text. Beautifully bound.
First Edition Of *Sweet Flypaper Of Life*, Inscribed In The Year Of Publication By Photographer Roy DeCarava And Boldly Signed By Langston Hughes


**Click for more info**

First edition of this landmark collaboration between Hughes and DeCarava, preferred softcover edition, containing Hughes’ lyrical text and 141 engaging photogravures by DeCarava, signed by Hughes in his trademark green ink and inscribed by DeCararva in the year of publication: “10-30-55 Best Wishes Roy DeCarava.” A pristine copy in fine condition.

Guggenheim Award-winner Roy DeCarava is considered “the spiritual ‘father’ of much contemporary African American photography” (*New York Times*). Langston Hughes, already “acknowledged as the most influential black writer of his generation, and as one of the greatest American poets of all time, here composed a fictional story to accompany DeCarava’s images, creating a lyrical tale about imaginary characters to go with photographs of real people” (Roth, 138). “An important step forward” in the history of photobooks (Parr & Badger II:242). Preferred first softcover edition with text beginning on front wrapper, text block on page 3; published the same year as the first cloth edition. An especially beautiful copy, rarely seen in such fine condition.
Inscribed By Langston Hughes


Click for more info


This volume helped introduce “the writings of a wide range of Africans [35] to readers in North America. Many of the writers who later achieved major international success, including Wole Soyinka [and] Amos Tutuola… were represented” (African American Writers, 172). First edition, second state of the binding, with cartographic endpapers. Blockson 6859. Recipient Lloyd Garrison was a successful Wall Street lawyer who worked for several U.S. Presidents including Herbert Hoover, Harry S. Truman, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. As the great-grandson of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, he was a strong supporter of African Americans, serving as a member of the National Urban League for more than 30 years including a term as its president. In 1953 he acted as counsel to Hughes when he was called by Senator Joseph McCarthy to appear before the House un-American Activities Committee. Book fine; dust jacket with light wear to ends of slightly toned spine, near-fine.
Signed By Sir Edmund Hillary And Sir John Hunt


Click for more info

First edition of this account of the 1953 British conquest of Everest, with eight color photographic plates, 48 half-tone plates and a number of in-text illustrations after pen-and-ink sketches, boldly signed by Edmund Hillary and expedition leader John Hunt.

The 1953 British Expedition to Mount Everest was the eighth in 30 years to attempt Everest. On May 29th, 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay at last stood at the summit; it was a culminating moment in mountaineering history, and one of the great achievements of human stamina and will. The Ascent of Everest was written by Sir John Hunt, the leader of the expedition, in one month to satisfy the great demand around the world for the story of the British team's success. Chapter 16 is Sir Edmund Hillary's stirring account of the final part of the climb. Owner signature excised from endpaper. Expert repair to inner paper hinges, book near-fine. Dust jacket bright and clean, much nicer than typically found, about-fine. A lovely copy, scarce and desirable signed by both Hillary and Hunt.
Beautifully Illustrated Limited Edition History Of James I In Splendid Armorial Binding


Click for more info

Limited first edition, one of 800 copies on fine paper, in sumptuous armorial binding, with color frontispiece engravings of King James, 27 additional full-page portrait engravings of contemporaries from National Gallery paintings and other prominent collections, 11 additional full- or half-page engravings, and a full-page facsimile letter from King James to Prince Charles.

A beautifully illustrated history of King James VI of Scotland, later James I of England, Ireland and Scotland. James I (1566 – 1625), son of Mary, Queen of Scots, was the first monarch to rule both Scotland, from his 13th month, and England, from 1603 until his death (the 22-year Jacobean era). James’ commissioning of a new Bible translation, the Authorized King James version, has had an incalculable influence on English language and literature. From a total edition of 1000; an additional 200 copies were issued on Japanese paper. Evidence of bookplate. A splendidly illustrated folio volume in fine condition.
1861 Military Appointment, Signed By Abraham Lincoln As President


Click for more info

Splendid Lincoln Civil War document appointing Albert Hartsuff as “Assistant Surgeon,” countersigned by Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War, with fragile paper seal present, beautifully matted and framed with a large engraved portrait of Lincoln.

Albert Hartsuff was born in Seneca Falls, NY, on February 4, 1837. He studied medicine at the State University at Castleton, Vermont. He became a hospital surgeon, and pursued his postgraduate work in New York, at the Marine Hospital. As the present document shows, he entered military service as Assistant Surgeon in 1861. Hartsuff was brevetted Captain and Major for meritorious service during the Civil War, and continued to rise steadily through the ranks over the course of his military career. In 1900 he was made Colonel and Assistant Surgeon General, and in 1901 he retired as Brigadier General. Docketed in red ink in upper left-hand corner. A very handsome framed document, boldly signed, in fine condition.


Click for more info

Second, enlarged edition of this very scarce and desirable pirate history—issued the same year as the first—a sequel to Exquemelin’s *Bucaniers of America*, recounting the exploits of pirates in the West Indies and American waters, with two (of three) engraved plates: a portrait of Blackbeard and a plate depicting the female pirates Anne Bonny and Mary Read.

“This work is considered a sequel to Exquemelin’s *Bucaniers of America*, and most of the pirates it records operated in the West Indies and American waters. This second edition was enlarged by the addition of the accounts of Captains Anstis, Phillips, and Spriggs; the first edition had only 320 pages [compared to the 427 in this second edition]” (Hill). “Nothing is known of Captain Charles Johnson... Nor, beyond a general remark in the preface, is there any hint of the sources whence the author got his information; *that he was accurate, even to the smallest particular, has been repeatedly proved... The General History soon became so popular that a second edition, considerably enlarged, was published in the same year, followed by a third the next year and a fourth in 1726” (National Maritime Museum). Includes chapters on Avery, Martel, Bonnet, Blackbeard, Vane, Rackam, England, Davis, Roberts, Worley, Lowther, Low, Evans, and the female pirates Mary Read and Anne Bonny. “This rare work embodies many items relating to the Colonial History of British America, nowhere else extant, such as the Adventures of Blackbeard, and his Capture by Lieut. Maynard in the James River, Va., &c.” (Sabin). Without folding plate depicting Captain Roberts and two of his ships. The very scarce first edition appeared earlier in 1724 under the title *A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates*. Gosse, *My Pirate Library*, 45 (also second edition only: as Gosse notes in the preface to his 1926 bibliography, “If any copies of the first edition exist they must be very scarce. There is none in the British Museum Library, nor have I been able to trace a copy elsewhere”). Early owner ink signature on title page inked out. Infrequent minor spotting to text, morocco-gilt binding near-fine and handsome.
“Faster Than A Speeding Bullet, Red Cape Streaming In The Wind...”


Click for more info

First edition of the first novel starring Superman—“strong and invincible, nemesis of evil-doers”—illustrated by the character’s co-creator Joe Shuster with four full-page color plates and numerous black-and-white illustrations.

Boyhood friends Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster created America’s first and most iconic comic book superhero. The Man of Steel debuted in Action Comics #1 (1938). He soon made the leap to radio, cinema and prose, and his “dynamic personality... [became] incorporated into Western contemporary mythology” (Clute & Nicholls, 1183). This first Superman novel, penned by the scriptwriter and director of “The Adventures of Superman” radio series, demonstrates the character’s ability to reflect the concerns of the day: In wartime America, our hero investigates sunken submarines and hunts down enemy spies. Minor soiling to text, offsetting to endpapers, minor paper hinges expertly reinforced, cloth very clean; bright original dust jacket with a bit of red staining to verso and the top corner of the rear panel, with a few minor expert repairs, bright and beautiful.
The Father Of Modern Political Science: 1675 First Edition Of Machiavelli’s Works In English, Handsomely Bound


$17,500.

First edition in English of this comprehensive collection of the great Italian statesman’s most important writings, the foundation of the modern study of politics. Includes The Art of War, Discourses on Livy, and his primer of power politics, The Prince, handsomely bound.

“Machiavelli founded the science of modern politics on the study of mankind. Politics was a science to be divorced entirely from ethics, and nothing must stand in the way of its machinery” (PMM 63). “From a comparative reading of [The Discourses and The Prince], one must come to the startling conclusion that Machiavelli was a convinced republican. He had no liking for despotism, and considered a combination of popular and monarchical government best. No ruler was safe without the favor of his people... His ideal government was the old Roman republic, and he constantly harked back to it in the Discourses... It is hardly disputable that no man previous to Karl Marx has had as revolutionary an impact on political thought as Machiavelli” (Downs, 12). With five-page publisher’s catalog bound before appendix “Letter.” Bookplate, likely that of noted politician Henry Bathurst (1714-94), the second Earl Bathurst, who served as a member of Parliament, was admitted to the privy council and appointed Lord Chancellor of Great Britain from 1771-78. Text quite clean, binding nicely restored and quite handsome.
First Edition Of Somerset Maugham’s Of Human Bondage


Click for more info

First edition, very elusive first issue, of Maugham’s “longest and most ambitious” novel, preceding the same year’s London edition, a beautiful copy.

“Maugham’s longest and most ambitious novel, in which ‘fact and fiction are inextricably mixed,’ draws heavily upon the author’s own youth, with circumstances and names scarcely altered” (Parker, 63). “As early as 1911 [Maugham] had retired temporarily from the theatre to work on his long novel, Of Human Bondage. He was to correct the proofs under the admiring eyes of Desmond MacCarthy in a small hotel at Malo, near Dunkirk; the two men were drivers in an ambulance unit for which they had volunteered at the outbreak of war in 1914... Of Human Bondage was published in 1915. It was less noticed in wartime London than in New York, where Theodore Dreiser reviewed it with enthusiasm. It remains Maugham’s most impressive literary work, and by the time of his death [1965] was said to have sold ten million copies” (DNB). First issue, without Doran monogram on copyright page, weighing 33-1/2 ounces and with misprint in line 4 of page 257. Without rare dust jacket. Stott 14. A fine copy.

“He asked himself dully whether
whenever you got your way you wished
afterwards that you hadn’t.”
Inscribed And Twice Signed By Admiral Nimitz

37  NIMITZ, Chester W. Photograph inscribed. Tokyo, September 2, 1945. Black-and-white photographic print, image measuring 9 by 7 inches; matted and framed, entire piece measures 22 by 20-1/2 inches. $5500.

Click for more info

“God Did Away With All My Fear”: Rosa Parks’ Quiet Strength, Signed By Her


Click for more info

First edition, first printing of this book of reflections by the civil rights leader, signed and dated “5/25/95” by her.

“The mother of the Civil Rights Movement” offers prayerful reflections on faith, values, and history and her place in it. With 12 photographic illustrations. A fine copy.

“I am leaving this legacy to all of you... to bring peace, justice, equality, love and a fulfillment of what our lives should be.”
Lovely Illustrated History Of Queen Anne, In Beautiful Full Morocco-Gilt


Click for more info

Limited edition of this illustrated biography of Queen Anne, one of only 200 copies printed on Japanese paper, with 39 tissue-guarded engraved portraits, including color frontispiece portrait, beautifully bound in full morocco-gilt by Zaehnsdorf.

This is the life story of Queen Anne, Queen of England, Scotland and Ireland beginning in 1702, who was Queen when the kingdoms of England and Scotland, under the Acts of Union, united as a single sovereign state known as Great Britain on May 1, 1707. She continued to reign as Queen of Great Britain and Ireland until her death in 1714. With title page printed in red and black. A lovely illustrated volume in fine condition.
Magnificent Limited Edition Of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s D-Day Prayer, Broadcast The Night Of The Normandy Invasion

40. ROOSEVELT, Franklin D. Lithographic broadside, “D-Day Prayer.” Washington, Christmas 1944. Broadside (14 by 21 inches), printed in black gothic type, capital letters and portions of the heading in red and blue ink, one large capital “A” in blue and gold, a single sentence in red ink; matted and framed, entire piece measures 19 by 25-1/2 inches.

$18,000.

Click for more info

Limited edition of this rare broadside of the “D-Day Prayer,” one of very few—believed to be only 50—exquisitely printed copies issued by President Roosevelt for his close friends, handsomely printed in gothic type with red, blue, and gold ink textual embellishments.

This limited edition broadside is quite rare: very few copies have appeared at auction in the last 40 years—one of the copies notably belonging to Eleanor Roosevelt. The text of the broadside, now known as the “D-Day Prayer,” was originally titled “Let Our Hearts Be Stout.” On June 6th, 1944, while American and Allied troops stormed the beaches at Normandy, Roosevelt released the text of a prayer in the afternoon which he then delivered by radio to the nation at 10:00 p.m., Eastern time. It is estimated, according to Andrew Malcolm,

that as many as 100 million people listened to it. “The prayer does not invoke one faith, but the appeal to God is bold and unapologetic. The D-Day Prayer was an extraordinary event in U.S. religious history” (Malcolm).

A beautiful copy in fine condition.
First Edition Of Intelligent Life In The Universe, Signed By Carl Sagan


Click for more info


In Sagan’s description of his remarkable collaboration with Shklovskii, conducted entirely by mail with the Russian scientist in the Soviet Union and Sagan in the U.S., he explains they were never able “to discuss the present edition in person.” Throughout the book, Sagan adds “about as much material as there was in the work initially” and was the sole author of “the figures and captions.” In addition to clarifying many concepts for layman and authoring new material in chapters such as those titled, “Optical Contact Among Galactic Civilization,” Sagan offers fascinating asides about Sumerian mythology and “an enigmatic semi-fish, semi-quadrapede Oannes” (Irish Astronomical Journal). The book won early praise as “fascinating... in concept, scope and execution, the book is as big as its subject” (Christian Science Monitor), and Isaac Asimov called Intelligent Life in the Universe “sheer pleasure,” a testimony to “the brotherhood of science.” A fine copy.
Very Rare Manuscript Booklet By Peanuts Creator Charles Schulz
Intended As A Mock-Up For Holt, Rinehart, Comprising An Autograph Note
And A Captioned Original Drawing Of Snoopy And His Doghouse

42. SCHULZ, Charles M. Manuscript booklet containing autograph note and original drawing. No place, circa mid-1960s. Booklet made of single sheet of paper folded in half, measuring 7 by 7 inches; pp. 3. $6800.

Click for more info

Rare and wonderful mock-up manuscript booklet given by Charles Schulz to the sales manager at his publisher, Holt, Rinehart, with an autograph note suggesting that his cartoon books be produced on the same stock and in the same size as the booklet and with an original drawing of Snoopy as an aviator, captioned on the facing page in the prospective text style.

In the mid-1960s, when Schulz drafted this booklet, he was in the process of developing his Peanuts cartoon books in collaboration with Holt, Rinehart & Winston (later Holt). The booklet was addressed to Frank Close, Holt’s sales manager. The note on the front of the booklet reads: “Frank—How would this be for actual page size? I think colored stock could be good, too.” Inside the booklet, Schulz has sketched an original drawing of Snoopy dressed as the Red Baron, sitting on top of his doghouse. On the facing page, Schulz has written—in a style clearly intended to suggest a future font—“Here I am flying high over the enemy lines.” The books were ultimately square and printed on color stock, quite similar to what Schulz suggested in this booklet. While this book was originally given to Frank Close, he passed it on to his subordinate, a production manager, with Schulz’s express permission. This item is directly from the production manager’s estate. Very faint soiling to exterior of booklet, not affecting pristine original drawing or caption. Extremely desirable.
40

“…We Can Have Lots Of Good Fun That Is Funny!”

43. SEUSS, Dr. The Cat in the Hat. New York, 1957. Octavo, original pictorial paper boards, dust jacket. $7000.

Click for more info

Rare first edition of this rare and important children’s classic, in the scarce original dust jacket.

“Inspired by a thoughtful article by John Hersey in Life magazine, entitled ‘Why do Students Bog Down on the First R?’, Seuss began to address the problem, which has since entered the popular parlance as the why-Johnny-can’t-read syndrome. Hersey’s contention was that the schools were filled with ‘pallid primers’ such as Fun with Dick and Jane... Seuss’ answer was The Cat in the Hat. The Cat in the Hat was so successful that Random House, publisher of all the Dr. Seuss books since 1937, created a special division, Beginner Books, with the Cat in the Hat as the logo and Dr. Seuss as president of the division” (Dr. Seuss from Then to Now, 45). Book bright and near-fine, with closed tear to page 19 and only slightest wear and toning to extremities. Dust jacket extremely good with light soiling, mainly to rear panel, and a bit of wear. A most attractive copy.

44. SEUSS, Dr. Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories. New York, 1958. Slim quarto, original pictorial green paper boards, dust jacket. $1150.

Click for more info

First collected edition of three of Seuss’ most memorable moral fables.

“It is interesting to watch the progression of stacking turtles in [Seuss’] work over a nearly 25-year period... He began stacking them in May 1928 and repeated that image through the next two decades” (Cohen, 307), culminating in this volume’s title story, a gentle but pointed parable about justice and social equality. The book also collects “Gertrude McFuzz” and “The Big Brag”, both previously published in Redbook. Book with only a bit of wear to spine ends, dust jacket with wear to spine, one tiny whole to spine. An extremely good copy.

“And The Turtles, Of Course... All The Turtles Are Free As Turtles And, Maybe, All Creatures Should Be”
“Here’s An Easy Game To Play. Here’s An Easy Thing To Say”


Click for more info

First edition of Dr. Seuss’ series of tremendous tongue-twisters for ready readers, in colorful original dust jacket.

In Seuss’ witty book for young readers, Mr. Fox and Mr. Knox begin a dialogue involving a box and some socks, only to find themselves caught up with clocks and blocks, bricks and chicks, and everything else necessary to get buried in a very long tongue-twister. First-issue dust jacket, with “reading easiness (175-300 Word Vocabularies)” on rear panel. Book fine, only minor wear to dust jacket extremities. A lovely copy.

“Don’t give up! I believe in you all. A person’s a person, no matter how small!”

Fish In A Tree? How Can That Be?"


Click for more info

First edition of Dr. Seuss’ beloved Hop on Pop, one of the best-selling children’s books of all time (Publishers Weekly).

Educators hailed Hop on Pop, which bills itself as “The Simplest Seuss for Youngest Use,” as a breakthrough in reading education when it appeared in 1963. Dust jacket with a bit of wear to spine ends, one short closed tear to rear panel. A near-fine copy.

“Dad is sad. Very, very sad. He had a bad day. What a day Dad had!”
“A Different Story From The One You Learned In School”


Click for more info

First edition of Shaara’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, one of the most popular and acclaimed works of Civil War fiction.

“Stephen Crane once said that he wrote The Red Badge of Courage because reading the cold history was not enough; he wanted to know what it was like to be there, what the weather was like, what men’s faces looked like. In order to live it he had to write it. This book was written for much the same reason” (Shaara). “A book that changed my life... I had never visited Gettysburg, knew almost nothing about that battle before I read the book, but here it all came alive” (Ken Burns). A fine copy.
"The First And Greatest Classic Of Modern Economic Thought"


Click for more info

Ninth edition of Smith’s landmark work—“probably the most important book which has ever been written” (Buckle).

“Where the political aspects of human rights had taken two centuries to explore, Smith’s achievement was to bring the study of economic aspects to the same point in a single work...it is the first and greatest classic of modern economic thought” (PMM 221). Buckle’s History of Civilization calls Wealth of Nations “probably the most important book which has ever been written.” First published in 1776. With half titles; one rear page of advertisements (III). Interiors generally clean, expert restoration to bindings. A handsome set, desirable in contemporary calf-gilt bindings.
“A Unique Fever-Dream”:
First Edition Of Mickey Spillane’s I, The Jury


Click for more info

First edition of Spillane’s first book, introducing Mike Hammer—“raised the level of toughness to new levels”—in original dust jacket.

Written in only nine days, Mickey Spillane’s first book launched “the bestselling P.I. series in history... [and] raised the level of toughness to new levels” (Penzler, 45). With Spillane’s Mike Hammer, the hard-boiled mystery found a private detective who was “courageous, loyal, patriotic, much more intelligent than critics have generally allowed, but above all else tough. Hammer’s career as a private eye and Spillane’s as a novelist began together with I, The Jury, the first mystery to exceed 6 million sales in the United States” (Reilly, 133334). First-issue dust jacket, with price of $2.50 on lower front flap and all other points. Small owner inscription. Book fine; light edge-wear mainly to spine head of colorful near-fine dust jacket.

“I couldn’t let her speak or I would never be able to keep my promise.”
Deluxe First Edition Of *In Darkest Africa*, 1890, One Of Only 250 Copies Signed By Stanley

50. STANLEY, Henry M. *In Darkest Africa or the Quest, Rescue and Retreat of Emin Governor of Equatoria*. New York, 1890. Two volumes. Large quarto, publisher’s three-quarter dark brown morocco gilt.

$16,000.

[Click for more info]

Deluxe signed limited first edition, American issue, one of only 250 copies signed by Stanley, of the classic 19th-century account of African exploration, profusely illustrated with engraved frontispieces, 38 mounted plates on India paper, six additional full-page etchings (each signed by the artist), three color folding maps (two backed in cloth), a folding table of comparative vocabularies, and numerous mounted, in-text India-prints.

Perhaps no adventurer is more closely connected with Africa than Lord Stanley, whose various expeditions did more to reveal the nature of that continent than any modern explorer. His 1887 mission to relieve the besieged governor of Egypt, his last mission to Africa, ended miserably when Stanley arrived only to learn that the governor did not care to be relieved, but instead was angry at the Englishman for interfering in his affairs. The perilous journey nearly cost Stanley his life, and only a third of the men with whom he set out returned alive. Published in the same year and using the same sheets as the English issue (also limited to 250 copies). Text and plates fresh and fine, only light discoloration to vellum-gilt covers (as often), a few minor scuffs to sound joints of Volume I. A most desirable near-fine copy of the deluxe signed limited edition.
“Bottled Velvet,” “Absinthe,” And “Rum Flip”:
Jerry Thomas’ Bar-Tender’s Guide, The First Drink Manual Published In The United States


Click for more info


Jerry Thomas (to whom the famous Savoy Cocktail Book is dedicated) presents 236 recipes for social drinks “apart from water and those of the breakfast and tea-table.” Before The Bar-Tender’s Guide, knowledge of cocktails and their recipes was largely a matter of oral tradition in the United States; its author is today regarded as the father of American mixology. First published in 1862. Text clean, a few very small, faint marks to cloth. A near-fine copy.

“An efficient bartender’s first aim should be to please his customers...”
"I Am Eloise. I Am Six": Rare First Edition Of Kay Thompson’s Classic, *Eloise*


**Click for more info**

*First edition of the first and rarest Eloise book.*

“Eloise’s birth was unexpected. At rehearsals of her act with the Williams Brothers, Thompson [who was a professional singer] prized punctuality. Then one day she was late. In a high, childish voice that she had never used before, she made her apology. One of her co-workers said, ‘Who are you, little girl?’ Thompson replied, ‘I am Eloise. I am six.’ The others joined in the game, each assuming a juvenile identity, and it became a regular rehearsal pastime” (*New York Times*). That pastime became a book, with three more to follow in Thompson’s lifetime. Interior clean, a bit of faint toning to original cloth, boards gently bowed. Dust jacket with minuscule rubs to extremities and mild toning to spine. A near-fine copy.
“The Last Major Western Work On Japan Before The Opening Of The Country”: With 13 Splendid Hand-Colored Plates, Including A Long Folding Plate Of Funeral Processions


Click for more info

First English edition of this rare and important work, with a hand-colored line-engraved frontispiece and 12 hand-colored line-engraved and aquatint prints, including a folding panoramic strip of a funeral procession on three attached leaves, “faithfully copied from Japanese original designs,” and printed by Rudolph Ackermann.

Around 1815, at a time when Japan was essentially closed to the rest of the world, Japanese prints found their way to France, by way of Holland, having been sent there by Dutch traders in Nagasaki—the sole conduit of exchange between Japan and the West. “As it is said that they were merely used by the Dutch as wrappings for parcels, when dispatching goods to Europe, or stuffed in bales, their condition on arrival would hardly conduce to a proper appreciation of their merit as works of art” (Basil Stewart). Nonetheless, these crumpled prints were the first of their kind to be seen in Europe. Chief agent to the Dutch East India Company at Nagasaki, Isaac Titsingh collected Japanese books and objects of art, among which “were a few (fewer than a dozen) color-prints... Titsingh’s prints were, most probably, the first to find their way to Europe in the hands of a collector, apart from any which arrived as wrappings for merchandise” (Stewart). Translated from the French by Frederic Shoberl, Titsingh’s *Illustrations of Japan* not only contains “faithful copies” of Japanese prints, but also provides valuable firsthand information on Japanese culture during the period of seclusion, unavailable anywhere else. First published in French in 1820. Text and plates watermarked 1821. Bookplate; owner signature. Interior generally clean and fine, hand-colored plates quite nice. Light edge wear and rubbing to contemporary calf covers, with expert restoration to corners. A very good, attractive copy of this finely illustrated and rare work.
First Edition Of A Confederacy Of Dunces, A Fine Copy


First edition of Toole’s posthumously published, Pulitzer Prize-winning satirical novel—“nothing less than a grand comic fugue”—one of only 2500 copies printed.

“This novel has a sad history behind it. The author sent it to every publisher in America, all of whom rejected it. After the final rejection (by Knopf) Toole committed suicide. He was only 32. His mother gave the manuscript to Walker Percy, who secured its publication by Louisiana State University Press, and it was awarded a posthumous Pulitzer Prize. Its virtues have now been universally recognized” (Burgess, 125). “A masterpiece of comedy” (New York Times). First-state dust jacket, without Chicago Sun-Times blurb on the rear panel. Book about-fine, dust jacket with small closed tear to spine, bright and near-fine. A lovely copy.

“When my brain begins to reel from my literary labors, I make an occasional cheese dip.”
"One Of Mark Twain's Most Important Books"


Click for more info


During an 1872 visit to the Midwest, the author "was struck by the great diminution of steamboat traffic on the Ohio River and became anxious to document the steamboat era before it vanished altogether... [The resulting volume is] widely regarded as both one of Mark Twain's major works and a classic on the Mississippi itself. Its early chapters especially are unrivaled in evoking the excitement of their time... According to Howells, Mark Twain regarded Life on the Mississippi as his greatest book. His regard for it is attested to by the fact that it is the only book that he attempted to rewrite after publication" (Rasmussen, 283, 291-2). "One of Mark Twain's most important books" (LeMaster & Wilson, 467). First state, intermediate A, with first state of tailpiece illustration on page 441, of Twain's head in flames (removed in later states at the request of Mrs. Clemens, who found it morbid); caption on page 443, reading "The St. Charles Hotel." BAL 3411. Contemporary owner signature. Text fine, paper repair to front inner hinge; cloth lovely with only mild wear to spine extremities, gilt quite bright. A near-fine copy.
Rare First Edition, First Issue Of *Huckleberry Finn* In Original Publisher’s Full Sheep Binding, With All First-State Points Including The Curved Fly, One Of The First Copies To Be Printed

$32,000.


Click for more info

First edition, in unrestored publisher’s deluxe sheep binding, with all first-state points, including the extraordinarily rare “curved fly” illustration. Most rare, one of approximately 2500 copies issued in this binding, one of the first copies to be printed in the “original state,” before the above illustration was altered. This unaltered leaf appears in only some of the publisher’s deluxe bindings and never in the cloth-bound copies.

Written over an eight-year period, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was blasted by critics from the moment of publication, attacked for its “blood-curdling humor,” immorality, coarseness and profanity. It nevertheless emerged as one of the defining novels of American literature. *This copy has all of the commonly identified first issue points* (see list below). Leaf containing pages 283-84 is the rare conjugate (Kemble’s illustration is version with “curved” pant-fly, prior to defacement), described by BAL as the “original state, seen only in prospectuses and the leather bound copies” (see also Johnson, 48; MacDonnell, 32-33). The illustration on page 283 became a point of issue after an engraver, whose identity was never discovered, “made a last-minute addition to the printing plate of Kemble’s picture of old Silas Phelps. In the mischievous tradition of graffiti he drew in a male sex organ, and what was originally a pleasant scene... suddenly became a flagrant case of indecent exposure” (Kaplan, 263). The sabotage was discovered while the book was at press and the offending plate was replaced, the corrected plate being slightly altered in the area of Silas Phelps’ trousers fly. Not many, even of the sheep-bound copies, contain the first state of the plate prior to defacement. This copy is one of the few that the binder had completed before the defacement. Anything printed after this features either a cancel or a conjugate leaf with the corrected illustration. Hence this is one of the earliest copies of *Huck* to be printed.

Copies of *Huckleberry Finn* in the original publisher’s leather bindings are quite rare. “The relative rarity of the cloth and leather bindings is clear. Less than two weeks before publication, Webster announced that he was binding 20,000 copies in cloth, another 2,500 in sheep, and 500 copies in three-quarter leather. The remaining 7000 copies of the first printing were probably bound up in similar proportions. *Leather copies dried out, cracked apart, and have survived in even fewer numbers than the original production numbers would promise*” (MacDonnell, 35). *This copy has all of the commonly identified first issue points* (the printer assembled copies haphazardly; bibliographers do not yet agree as to the priority of many points). Joints starting but strong, resewn with inner paper hinges reinforced, later endpapers, only very light wear to extremities of original sheep. Extremely good condition. A very rare and desirable first state copy in the original publisher’s sheep binding of this classic of American literature.
“Right is right, and wrong is wrong, and a body ain’t got no business doing wrong when he ain’t ignorant and knows better.”
Signed Limited First Edition Of Chaim Weizmann’s Autobiography,
One Of Only 500 Copies Signed By Him

57  WEIZMANN, Chaim. **Trial and Error.** New York, 1949. Two volumes. Octavo, original blue cloth, dust jackets, restored slipcase. $6000.

Click for more info

Presentation copy of the signed limited first edition, one of only 500 copies printed on special paper, with Volume I signed and numbered by Weizmann on the publisher’s original tipped-in leaf, a handsome copy in the original dust jackets and slipcase. Additionally presented and inscribed in the year of publication by Weizmann: “To —, with affection and thanks for a great evening. Apr 23/49. Ch Weizmann.”

“Endowed with diplomatic gifts of the first order,” Weizmann, a Russian-born chemist, was perhaps the most important figure in the history of Zionism (DNB). The 1917 Balfour Declaration, “Weizmann’s primary achievement, was a turning point in modern Jewish history” and has been described as “the greatest act of diplomatic statesmanship of the First World War.” Weizmann would become “universally recognized as the most authoritative figure in Jewish life” and was voted Israel’s first president in 1949 (Encyclopedia Judaica, 430). First edition with “First Edition L-X” on copyright pages, indicating publisher’s month of publication as November 1948. Slipcase renewed, with original printed side panels and rear panel neatly laid down over black cloth. Books and dust jackets fine. A desirable inscribed copy of the signed limited edition.
“A Peak Of English Poetry”


Click for more info

First English edition, substantially revised and expanded from the preceding limited edition of only 642 copies, in the original dust jacket, a beautiful copy.

Described, along with The Tower, as “the greatest poetry of Yeats in his difficult later manner... a peak in English poetry,” The Winding Stair includes one of his most resonant poems, “A Dialogue of Self and Soul,” as well as “Byzantium” and “Words for Music Perhaps” (Connolly 56B). The title refers to Thoor Ballylee, the Norman tower that Yeats purchased, restored and dedicated to his wife Georgie Hyde-Lees. Yeats was especially focused on the book’s design and consulted with Thomas Sturge Moore, noting: “the winding stair of Ballylee... might be a mere gyre—Blake's design of Jacob's ladder.” Sixteen poems from this work were previously published in the 1929 first edition; 47 poems first appeared in Yeats’ 1932 Words for Music Perhaps. One of only 2000 copies printed. With tipped-in errata slip (p.85). Contemporary owner inscription. Bookseller ticket. A splendid copy in fine condition.