

Guide to John Buchan's writing – issue no. 3

Please contact me for full details of any book which may be of interest.

Section A

A11 & A12 The Half-Hearted (1900)

Blanchard lists the UK and US editions separately as priority between the two cannot be established. His practice is to list the US edition of JB's work as a note within the entry for the UK edition but to list it as a separate entry if the US edition precedes the UK edition and is thus the 'true' first edition.

Lewis Haystoun fails to win an election and to woo the love of his life because of his half-heartedness and seeks to redeem himself in military service. The earlier part of the novel plods a little but the pace quickens as he becomes involved in the Great Game on the North West Frontier. Originally issued with a front cover illustration of a most fierce-looking tribesman it also appeared with a plain cover, variously in olive green, dark brown, red brown, blue, and grey; olive green is the commonest of these. Before publication in book form it was serialised in Isbister's house magazine *Good Words* accompanied by illustrations which were not included in the book. The first edition with the illustrated binding is quite rare.

This title was included in both the Nelson Uniform edition and Hodder's Yellow Jacket edition (a scarce title in that series) but not in Nelson's 1/6 or 2/- novels.

Copies available (14.06.19)

- *Good Words* magazine bound volume including the whole novel – 3 copies £40 to £150.
- Leather-bound first edition – 1 copy £250.
- Colonial first edition – 1 copy £150.
- Yellow Jacket edition – 2 copies £20 to £22.
- Hodder reprint - 2 copies £15 each.
- US 2nd edition – 2 copies, one with dustwrapper £30 to £100.

A13 & A14 The Watcher by the Threshold (1902)

The US edition is listed separately in Blanchard as it has a slightly different selection of stories from the UK edition and was not published until 1918. The first edition with the illustrated binding is quite rare. There is a supernatural slant to a number of the stories, all of which had been published previously in magazines. The first edition had an attractive illustration on the front cover; this is often partly worn away. A second impression, marked as thus on the title page, was identical in format. Blackwood's published a shilling edition during World War I in two different sizes and Nelson included this title in their Uniform edition. There was no Yellow Jacket, 1/6 novel or 2/- novel edition.

Copies available (14.06.19)

- First edition – 1 copy £450.
- Colonial edition – 1 copy £200.
- Second impression – 2 copies £200 to £350.
- Shilling edition – 8 copies, one with dustwrapper £5 to £40.
- Nelson Uniform edition (green leather) – 6 copies £17 to £25.

A15 The African Colony (1903)

Born out of JB's time working with Lord Milner from 1901 to 1903 on the reconstruction of Transvaal and the Orange River Colony after the Boer war. The book is in 3 parts; the first covers the history of South Africa from earliest times to the Boer War, the second deals with JB's travels around the region and the third, which he describes as 'highly controversial, sets out his views on the future of the country. There are 2 fold-out maps, one of South Africa as a whole and the other of the 'New Colonies'. Simultaneously with Blackwood's edition the Times Book Club published a version with a simpler green cloth binding and without the maps. Quite rare.

- No copies in stock at present

A16 The Law Relating to the Taxation of Foreign Income (1903)

Perhaps the most sought after and least often found of JB's works! A straightforward legal textbook describing the law covering the treatment of income received from overseas by UK residents. Many of the principles are, apparently, still of some relevance but it is unlikely to be a 'must read' for most people. For the collector, however, it is eagerly sought. Alas. It is extremely rare – I don't even have one in my own collection.

- No copies in stock, now or in the past.

A17 & A18 A Lodge in the Wilderness (1906)

Probably Buchan's most unusual novel. There is no story as such but rather it is a symposium on the differing views on Imperialism held at that time. It is presented in the form of a country-house novel, set in a wealthy man's mansion in Southern Africa. The characters are thinly disguised politicians, statesmen and businessmen of the day. It was originally published anonymously (no-one really seems to know why) but a second edition, identical to the first, was published in 1907 with JB credited as the author. A18 refers to a cheap edition published by Thomas Nelson in 1917 which has a new preface by JB. This was reprinted a number of times in varying bindings and with different series names (e.g. Edinburgh Library, Nelson Library), always undated. The novel was published in the Nelson Uniform edition but not in any of the other series of JB novels. The first and second editions are rare. I have occasionally seen a variant binding in light blue cloth.

Copies available (26.06.19)

- First edition – 1 copy £500
- Second edition – 1 copy £200
- Cheap edition – 5 copies £18 to £25
- Other reprints – 3 copies (all with dustwrappers) £25 to £35

Section B

B3 The Compleat Angler (1901)

JB was, of course, a very keen angler and was commissioned by Methuen & Co to write a lengthy (22 pages) introduction which is also a biographical and critical study. *The Compleat Angler* is a delightful book and even for a non-angler like me is an enjoyable read. This is an attractive pocket-sized edition and is quite rare.

Copies available (26.06.19)

- First edition – 1 copy £50

Section C

C9 Oxford and Cambridge (1909)

A collection of drawings of all the Oxford and Cambridge colleges prepared by Hanslip Fletcher, a well-known architectural artist of the early 20th century. Each college has a couple of pages of notes about it and those on Brasenose College are by JB. Never reprinted, as far as I am aware, and quite scarce.

Copies available (26.06.19)

- First edition – 1 copy £60

C10 Tales of Mystery and Imagination (1911)

Poe's well-known collection of short stories, published in a similar format to C8 (see issue no. 2) but bound in blue cloth. As with many of Nelson's publications it is undated so it is not easy to establish whether a copy is a first edition or a subsequent reprint. Careful comparison to the description in Blanchard is needed. JB contributed a 9-page introduction. These stories are classics of horror/suspense writing.

Copies available (26.06.19)

- Nelson Classics edition – 1 copy £7

C11 Edmund Burke (1911)

In a similar format to C8 and C10 and bound in red cloth. The same difficulties exist as regards identification as, once again, the book is undated. It is sub-titled *Selections from His Political Writing*. There is a 6-page introduction by JB. Surprisingly scarce.

- No copies in stock at present.

C12 John Buchan 1847-1911 (1912)

An affectionate tribute to the Revd. John Buchan, JB's father, privately published by the family shortly after his death. JB contributed a 9-page poem. Rare. A high proportion of copies that do reach the market are inscribed by Helen Buchan, JB's mother.

- No copies in stock at present.

Books about JB and His work (these are not in Blanchard)

This is not an exhaustive list but is simply compiled from my own collection. There are other books about JB and if you feel they should be included, please let me know. There are around 100 further books to be added to this section so be patient!

Beyond the Thirty-Nine Steps by Ursula Buchan

Where else could I start! Ursula's biography of her grandfather has received many excellent reviews and the comments I have received from customers who have bought a copy have been, without exception, complimentary. This is an excellent, comprehensive biography and gives a much clearer picture of JB, the man, than any previous biographies.

Copies available 27.06.19

- None in stock but available to order - £20 + postage.

The remaining books in this section will be dealt with in chronological order of the books in my collection.

Nelson's Map Book of the World Wide War (1915)

A book of maps detailing the progress of the war and of major engagements. Successive editions were produced as the war progressed. A very helpful aid when reading the 24-volume history of the war. Quite scarce. Although there is no direct contribution by JB there is a note in the book which states 'In selecting the Place-names, the publishers have taken "Nelson's History of the War," by John Buchan, as the authority.' Rare.

- No copies in stock at present.

The Bookman (1918)

This is Hodder & Stoughton's house magazine and the Christmas 1918 issue included an article on JB as a war historian. Rare.

- No copies in stock at present.

Gods of Modern Grub Street by A St John Adcock, illustrated by EO Hoppe (undated – early 1920s)

Brief pen pictures of 32 contemporary authors with a sepia photograph of each of them. A number of reprints were published during the 1920s. Charcoal cloth, later impressions in tan cloth.

- No copies in stock at present.

Some Contemporary Novelists (Men) (1922)

On a similar theme to the above but not illustrated. As well as JB there are studies of EM Forster, Hugh Walpole, DH Lawrence and a number of other men. Rare.

- No copies in stock at present.

