Guide to John Buchan's writing - issue no. 5

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

Section A

A24 The Moon Endureth (1912)

A collection of 10 poems and 10 short stories with each poem being followed by a story. Both the poems and the stories are wide-ranging in their subject matter and make an interesting mix. All but two of the poems were published here for the first time, the others having appeared in the *Book of the Horace Club* (see the entry under C3 in JB guide 01). The stories had all been published previously, mostly in magazines although the closing story had also appeared in *Grey Weather* (see A9 in JB guide 02). The US edition omits 3 of the stories and 2 of the poems but includes an additional story, *Fountainblue*, which had previously appeared in *The Watcher by the Threshold* (see A13 in JB guide 03).

This title was published in the Nelson Uniform edition and Hodder's Yellow Jacket series. It was not included in Nelson's 1/6 or 2/- novels.

Copies available (17.08.19)

- First edition 3 copies £70 to £100.
- US first edition 1 copy.
- Second impression (as first) 1 copy £25.
- Nelson Uniform green leather version 2 copies £17.50 to £19.
- Large format Yellow Jacket edition 3 copies £40 to £60.
- Hodder & Stoughton reprints 2 copies £7 to £8.

A25 What the Home Rule Bill Means (1912)

Buchan had strong views on the question of Irish Home Rule and as Prospective Union Candidate for Peebles and Selkirk he took the opportunity to make a speech on this issue in Innerleithen on 18 December 1912. A local printer issued the text of the speech as a 30-page booklet with the above title. It is extremely rare and I have never seen an original.

No copies in stock at present.

A26 The Marquis of Montrose (1913)

James Graham, 1st Marquis of Montrose was a major figure in Scottish politics and military history in the 17th century. He was initially a supporter of the Covenanters but as the English Civil War developed he became a Royalist and was appointed a Marquis and Lord-Lieutenant of Scotland by Charles I. After various vicissitudes he was executed in 1650 at the age of 37. He was much admired by JB and there are references to him in the 1927 novel, *Witch Wood*.

This work is not a comprehensive biography; although covering the whole of Montrose's life it concentrates primarily on Montrose's remarkable military skill and his various campaigns. 15 years later JB published a more rounded biography of Montrose which will be dealt with in a future issue of the guide. The book was bound in a very solid binding with bevelled edges but the blue cloth was susceptible to sundamage and most copies have a spine faded to a grey/brown shade. For a full picture of Montrose, it is worth having both this and the later work as part of a JB collection.

Copies available 17.08.19

- First edition 20 copies £22 to £40.
- First edition with extremely rare dustwrapper £200.

Paperback (Prion) - £15.

A27 Andrew Jameson, Lord Ardwall (1913)

The subject of this biography was a Scottish barrister who later became, successively, Sheriff of Roxburgh, Berwick and Selikirk, Sheriff of Ross, Cromarty and Sutherland and Sheriff of Perthshire. In 1905 he was created Lord Ardwall and raised to the bench and died some 6 years later. The biography chronicles a largely successful and contented life, both in business and family, divided between Edinburgh and his country estate at Ardwall, Kirkcudbrightshire, inherited through his wife.

This was the last book published by JB before the outbreak of World War I, a war which was to influence and be a major part of JB's writing for over 10 years.

Copies available 17.08.19

- First edition 5 copies £110 to £200.
- Variant first edition (green rather than blue binding) 1 copy £275.
- First edition inscribed by JB 1 copy £250.
- First edition with extremely rare dustwrapper £325.
- Second edition 2 copies £100 to £175.
- Second edition with rare dustwrapper £100 to £175.

A28 Nelson's History of the War (1915-1919)

Buchan's monumental 24-volume history of the war. Written very often within a short time of the events described. The first volume was published 6 months after the outbreak of the war and the last volume 10 months after the Armistice. Every campaign is described in considerable detail, including naval engagements, and most volumes have one or more appendices giving such information as honours awarded, military dispatches and speeches relevant to the narrative. Although assisted by a team of researchers the narrative was entirely the work of JB. Jingoistic at times and thus, to modern eyes, a rather unbalanced history it is nevertheless a remarkable chronicle of events, some witnessed by JB as a war correspondent for part of the time. It is an essential part of any serious JB collection.

Copies available 17.08.19

- Complete 24-volume set 2 sets £150 each.
- Numerous individual volumes enquire as to price and availability.

Section B

B6 Miscellanies Literary and Historical by Lord Rosebery (1921)

Lord Rosebery was a Liberal politician who was Prime Minister from 1894 to 1895. After stepping down he became increasingly distanced from the Liberal Party and spent much of his later life writing. He died in 1929. Some years before that JB collected together a number of his shorter essays and other writing in this 2-volume work. Volume I has a short introductory note by JB and a number of biographical sketches under the heading "Appreciations". Volume II is a mixture of political, historical and biographical writing.

Copies available 17.08.19

First edition 2-volume set – 2 copies £16 to £17.

B7 Great Hours in Sport (1921)

Subtitled *John Buchan's Annual*. "This book is an attempt at a record of great hours in sport, compiled from the narratives of men who were themselves responsible for the exploits or had the good fortune to witness theM." So far, so good. However, this book does not cover the sports which may appeal to today's

youngsters but rather with sport as familiar to public school boys of the 1920s. The sports dealt with are fishing, big-game hunting, mountaineering, hunting, racing (horses), small-boat sailing, boxing, cricket, rugby football and rowing. It's a nicely produced book, although the illustrations are heavily biased towards mountaineering. As well as editing the book, JB contributed the first chapter (Lost Monsters) and the last (Sport and literature). It was reprinted in a smaller edition by Nelson in later years. Some of these reprints were described as the Edinburgh Library edition.

Copies available 17.08.19

- First edition 7 copies (1 with facsimile dustwrapper) £17 to £25.
- Edinburgh Library reprints 3 copies (1 with dustwrapper) £12 to £16,
- Other Nelson reprints 3 copies £11 to £14.

Section C

C17 A Book of Belgium's Gratitude (1915)

This book draws together articles by a variety of Belgians expressing their nation's gratitude for Britain's help to them in the early days of World War I. The articles are printed in their original language together with a translation into English; the translator is credited. It includes two pieces entitled *Impressions of the War* by Mme. E Carton de Wiart, both of which are translated by John Buchan.

Bound in green cloth with blind-stamped ornamental borders on the front with a gold representation of the Belgian lion in the centre. A de luxe edition was produced bound in white vellum with the Belgian lion in gold on a green leather label.

Copies available 17.808.19

De luxe edition – 1 copy £100.

C18 The Times History of the War volume VI (1916)

This 22-volume history of the war was produced between 1915 and 1921. There was no single author but rather contributions were gathered together from many sources. Volume VI contains a short excerpt from a *Times* article by JB referring to the German drive in Galicia and a longer extract from another *Times* article about the battlefield of Loos. Volume VI is scarce.

No copies in stock at present.

C19 Raemakers' Cartoons (1916)

Louis Raemakers was a Dutch artist and cartoonist noted for his strongly anti-German stance. A number of his cartoons were published in *Land and Water* magazine, each with a descriptive article. These were later published in a 2-volume edition bound in red cloth and red half. Rare.

No copies in stock at present

C20 Alfred Lyttelton: An Account of His Life by Edith Lyttelton (1917)

Alfred Lyttelton (1857-1913) was a lawyer, politician and also an international cricketer and footballer. His first wife died at the age of 24, a few days after the birth of her first child. He remarried and his second wife, who outlived him by 35 years, wrote this account of his life. It includes an extract from an obituary by JB, which first appeared in *The Spectator*.

Scarce in a first edition.

Third edition (1917) – 1 copy £35

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!

I do not carry a wide range of these titles but if there is one you would like please let me know and I will try to find it for you.

The Canadian Scene: Sketches Political and Historical by Hector Charlesworth (1927)

Hector Charlesworth (1872-1945) was an influential Canadian arts and music critic and broadcaster. This book gathers together many of his *Reflections*, published in various magazines. It includes a chapter entitled "John Buchan's *Lord Minto*". Hard to find in the UK.

No copies in stock at present.

The Book Window, volume 1, no. 3. (1927)

The Book Window was WH Smith's house magazine and this issue includes an interview with JB in its series *Interviews with Famous Authors.* Rare.

No copies in stock at present.

The Feet of the Young Men by "The Janitor" (1928)

The Janitor was a pseudonym of John Gilbert Lockhart, best known as the author of a biography of Cosmo Gordon Lang, and Mary Frances Lyttelton, Lady Craik. The book is a collection of pen pictures of rising politicians and includes a chapter on JB as a politician. Intriguingly, he was 53 years old by this time.

Copies in stock 17.08.19

- First edition 1 copy £7.
- Third edition (1928) 2 copies £8 each.

The Grammar School for Girls, Southampton school magazine (1932)

A typical school magazine with short articles, news items etc. It includes brief notes of a lecture, attended by some pupils, given by JB at University College, Southampton entitled "Truth and Accuracy in History". Very rare.

No copies in stock at present.

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