

New John Buchan stock – 18 January 2019

The Richard Hannay wartime trilogy

Three immensely popular JB works; *The Thirty-Nine Steps* has never been out of print since it was first published in 1915. *Greenmantle* seems, perhaps, to command the most enthusiastic following and *Mr Standfast* with its strong thread of loyalty and sacrifice also has considerable popularity.

Here are early editions of all of these splendid yarns.

The Thirty-Nine Steps

9393 VG 4th impression (1916). The last impression with the original page size, subsequent ones being smaller. Bound in red cloth. This is an exceptionally good copy of this cheaply produced book with a good, solid binding, sharp corners and bright covers. However, the spine has faded to a pink shade. Internally there is the inevitable gentle browning of the page margins but other than this it is undamaged. There is a pencilled inscription on the fly-leaf. One of the best early impressions I have seen. **£50**

9394 G+ US edition 1915. The US first was published by Geo H Doran (see note to Blanchard A32) but this version was published by Grosset & Dunlap, probably at around the same time. It is one of their cheap or 'Popular' editions as the principal difference from the first edition is that the lettering is black rather than gold. The red cloth is slightly rippled on the spine and is creased vertically on the front. The spine has faded and is worn at the ends. The corners are also slightly worn. The rear cover has a couple of white marks. The front hinge is partly cracked and both hinges are shaky. Internally bright with some foxing of the first few and last few leaves. There are pencil inscriptions on the paste-down and the fly-leaf. **£40**

9492 VG in G+ dustwrapper. Grosset & Dunlap 1915. In the early part of the 20th century G&D published "Popular" editions of novels, often quite recently issued, in a lower-cost binding. This edition is very similar in its binding and layout to Hillier A32.1, the US first edition, but has black lettering instead of gilt. After the novel itself there is an 8-page catalogue. This edition is undated; there is a pencil inscription on the fly-leaf dated 1921. All the titles listed on the back of the d/w were published before 1920. The book is in very good condition with just slight rubbing at the ends of the spine. The d/w has a piece missing at the top of the spine (including the title), a small chip at the foot of the front joint and some rubbing along the folds. Early copies of this title with a d/w are extremely rare. **£200**

Greenmantle

9400 VG- US first edition. See note to Blanchard A38. Dark red cloth with blind-stamped crescent moon star on the front; gold lettering. The spine is rather faded and the lettering is dull. There is some wear at the ends. The boards have a few marks and the corners are lightly bumped and rubbed. Internally the page margins are lightly browned. There are names on the paste-down and fly-leaf. **£35**

9401 VG- US first edition. See note to Blanchard A38. The front cover has a water stain across the bottom one inch and the rear cover is stained around the edges. The lettering on the spine is dull. Bright internally with just very occasional brown spots. **£40**

9390 VG- in G+ dustwrapper. Undated Hodder & Stoughton reprint bound in sage green cloth with black lettering. The list of other JB books has nothing after Mr Standfast and the cheap paper would confirm a date of 1919/1920. But for some light stains on the rear cover the binding is very good with firm, square corners. Dustwrappers of this era are rare and this one has sustained some damage over the years. The front is creased in a number of places and the top corner is missing, including the first letter N of the title. The sunned spine has approx. one and a half inches missing at the foot and around three-quarters of an inch at the head. The rear panel, an advert for Wright's Coal Tar soap is lightly soiled and has a couple of small chips. **£50**

9399 VG- Grosset & Dunlap edition. G&D published "Popular" editions of novels, often quite recently issued, in a lower-cost binding. Red cloth with black lettering. Blind-stamped crescent moon & star on the front, in-filled in orange. The covers are lightly soiled and have a few small marks. Bright internally with a cracked rear hinge. Name in pencil on the fly-leaf. **£25**

Mr. Standfast

As with *Greenmantle*, this book seems to have been published in first edition with a variety of bindings. The first 3 below are all as Blanchard A46 but have different bindings as described.

9449 VG. This is bound in pale grey cloth. Both the spine and the front cover have a large JB monogram at the top as well as the title and author details. The spine also shows the publisher. The lettering is black and there are heavy black lines/frames around the lettering. The book is in very good condition internally and is very bright externally. There is slight rubbing at the foot of the spine and the lower corners. The lower rear corner is bumped. **£75**

9450 VG-. The binding is similar to the above but in light blue cloth. The spine is slightly sunned and the corners and spine ends are rubbed. There is a small stain at the lower front corner and the upper front corner is lightly bumped. The endpapers are lightly browned and there is a brown mark on the half-title but otherwise the book is bright internally. **£40**

9451 VG-. Yet another variation. Again as Blanchard A46 internally but bound differently from both A46 and the 2 volumes above. This is bound in light brown cloth with dark brown lettering. The title and author's name are on the front with blind stamped double rules. The spine is a little faded and is rubbed at the ends. The front hinge is tender and the pages uniformly lightly browned. A most unusual binding which I have not seen before. **£20**

9471 VG- WH Smith Library edition. As Blanchard A46 but with the pages trimmed to a smaller size. Bound for WH Smith's Circulating Library in terracotta cloth with black lettering and decoration and the WHS Library device on the front & back The spine is faded and the rear cover has patchy fading. There are a couple of faint marks on the front. Quite bright internally with occasional brown spots.

The binding is cracked at page 62 and the following leaf is detached but still present. The front hinge is split and has been repaired at some time with white tape. **£5**

9405 VG- in G+ dustwrapper. Undated Hodder & Stoughton reprint. Red cloth with black lettering. The style of the binding and the d/w suggest a date shortly before the introduction of the Yellow Jacket series, hence early 1920s. The covers are bright and undamaged. Internally the cheap quality paper (another pointer to an early 1920s date) is uniformly lightly browned and is rippled in places. The front hinge is cracked. The white d/w is lightly soiled and is chipped and worn at the extremities. There is a 2-inch x 1-inch piece missing from the rear top edge. Wrappers from this era are uncommon. **£30**

John Buchan non-fiction – a selection

I have said on a number of occasions that a good writer is always a good writer, JB's non-fiction is as well written and absorbing as his fiction.

A Book of Escapes and Hurried Journeys

Accounts of journeys, all with an element of urgency and/or danger. Originally written for young people.

9434 VG reprint (1926) in the Edinburgh Library edition. Red cloth with gold lettering; 10 maps. Lightly rubbed at the extremities and very slightly cocked. Browned endpapers but otherwise very bright internally. Signed by JB on the title page. **£40**

Andrew Jameson, Lord Ardwall

An account of a contented life as sheriff, judge and law lord and of his time devoted to his estate in Galloway.

9465 VG+ in VG- dustwrapper. Second edition of Blanchard A27, identical to the first but for "second edition" on the title page. A hint of fading along the edges of the boards but otherwise exceptionally bright internally and externally. The very rare d/w has a small V-shaped piece missing at the top edge of the front panel and a slight abrasion around it. As well as the indication on the spine of being a second edition there is also a price sticker which reads "including extra war costs 4/- net ". A peculiarity of d/ws for this title, this copy included, is that the d/w is very slightly smaller from top to bottom than the book itself. **£150**

Augustus

A fine biography of "the master designer and the chief executant" of the Roman Empire.

9477 VG in VG- dustwrapper. First US edition. Blanchard A120 (note). Light brown woven-effect cloth with gold lettering on black labels; blue top edge. The spine is very slightly faded and there is some browning around the edges of the endpaper maps but otherwise the book is very good. The price-clipped illustrated d/w has a lightly darkened spine with some old, neat repairs at the top. Overall a much better than average copy. **£25**

John Buchan as editor

A History of English Literature edited by JB

9436 VG in VG- dustwrapper. 1951 reprint of Blanchard B9. The book is in very good condition but for slight creasing in the cloth near the front top edge. The scarce d/w is uniformly lightly soiled and has some wear around the edges. **£15**

9425 VG- US reprint (1927). As Blanchard B9(note). Dark blue cloth with gold lettering. Extremities lightly rubbed and the lettering on the spine is rather dull. VG otherwise. **£10**

9494 VG- first impression. Blanchard B9. As well as editing the book JB contributed 3 sections. Excellent internally. The binding has rubbed corners and a little wear at the ends of the spine and there is a small split at the head of the spine. Quite rare in a first impression. **£15**

Arctic Journeys by Edward Shackleton (Preface by JB)

9484 VG in VG- dustwrapper. First edition. Blanchard C112. There are a couple of faded areas on the spine but otherwise the book is very good. There is a presentation inscription on the fly-leaf. The rare d/w has a faded spine and a few small chips around the edges. The white rear panel is a little darkened. **£75**

Essays and Apothegms of Francis Bacon (Edited and lengthy introduction by JB)

9428 VG first edition of Blanchard B1. Scott Library adverts to no. 100. The endpapers are lightly spotted and 2 consecutive leaves have a creased top corner. Very good otherwise. There is a name on the fly-leaf. **£65**