

RARE BOOK READER

JANUARY 2025
ISSUE 01

EXPLORE THE
GOLDEN ERA OF
COLLECTING

with treasures like a signed
Virginia Woolf photo, a Gutenberg
Bible leaf, and First Editions of
On the Road and *Casino Royale*

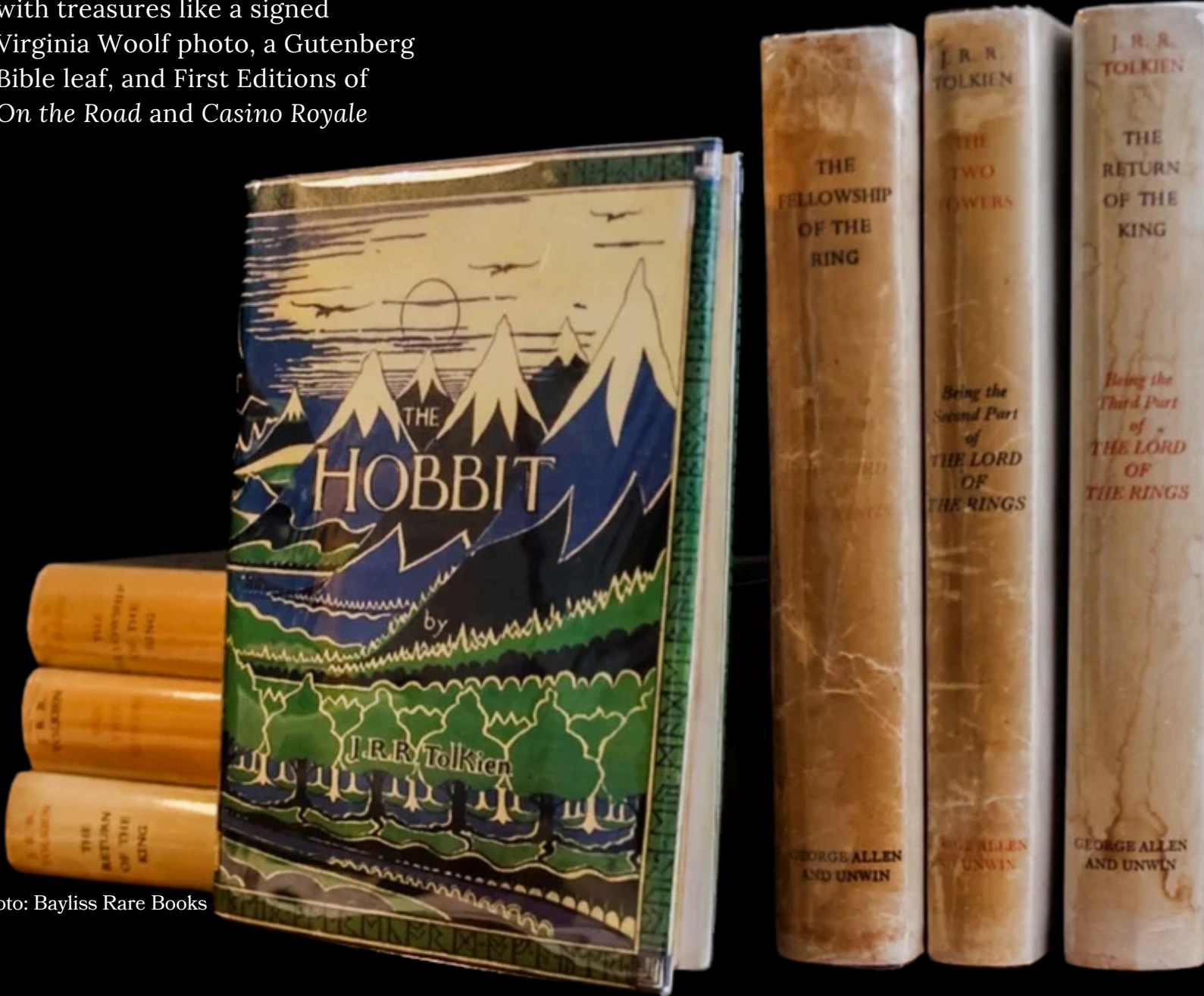
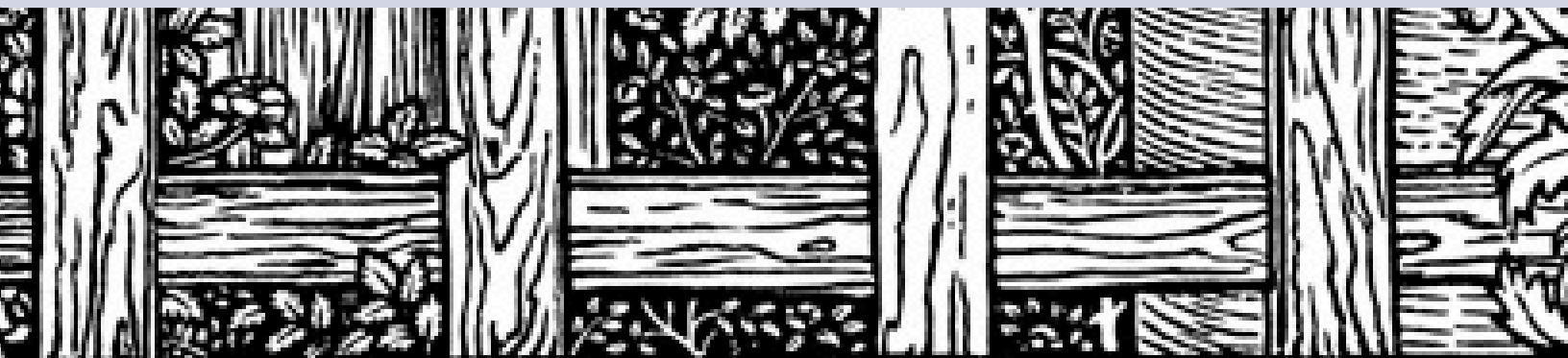


Photo: Bayliss Rare Books

AGELESS LITERATURE



AGELESS LITERATURE



*Welcome to
our first issue of
Rare Book Reader*

We hope this magazine will serve as your ultimate resource to expand your horizons as a book collector. It is meticulously crafted to celebrate the enchanting realms of literature and history. These pages are a showcase for the collectible books and exquisite historical artifacts listed on our website by our trusted sellers from around the world.

Original, Battle-Scarred,
D-Day Flag



Bayliss Rare Books
Pictured

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Presented by Bayliss Rare Books

We are pleased to offer to our readers the chance to own one of the greatest pieces of American history to ever come to market. The Beckham Collection is anchored by an extraordinary artifact: an original, battle-worn 48-star U.S. flag flown on the USS YMS-381 minesweeper during the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

This flag, the earliest known Allied flags to surface from D-Day and only verifiable minesweeper flag from D-Day, it is unmatched in its historical significance. Its provenance is meticulously documented, including customs records and a shipping label tracing its journey from the Normandy beaches to the United States in September 1944, when Lt. Commander William Beckham Jr. sent it home. Preserved in exceptional condition, this artifact represents not just a flag but a symbol of unparalleled bravery and precision during the greatest amphibious assault in history.

The historical importance of this flag cannot be overstated. Unlike the more prominent vessels of the invasion fleet, minesweepers like the USS YMS-381 operated on the razor's edge, leading the charge into enemy waters to clear the way for the main assault forces. Beckham and his crew were among the first to confront the heavily fortified shores of Utah Beach, navigating treacherous seas laden with mines and under the constant threat of enemy fire. The flag that flew aboard his vessel was likely one of the very first flags seen by the Germans on that pivotal day, serving as a rare testament to their courage, dedication, and critical role in securing the success of Operation Neptune.



What elevates this historical flag further is its unimpeachable authenticity. Unlike many other D-Day flags, whose provenance often relies on anecdotal evidence or incomplete documentation, this flag's origins are conclusively verified. It is not merely a flag but an irreplaceable piece of military history, encapsulating the heroism, sacrifice, and meticulous strategy that defined one of humanity's most significant turning points.

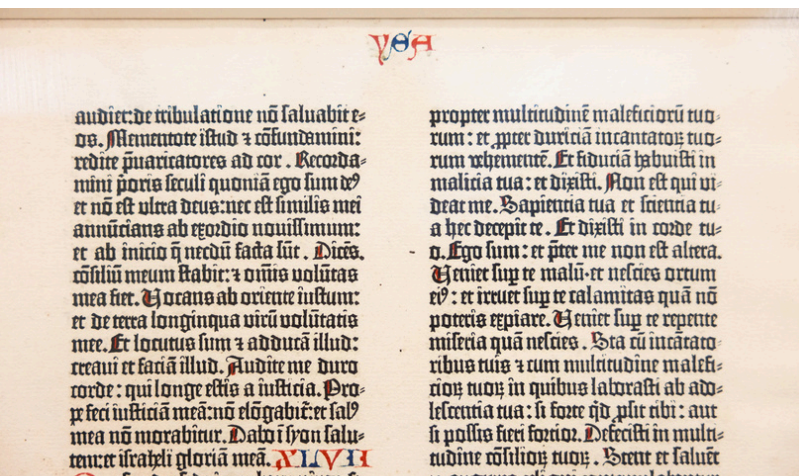
**AN ORIGINAL 48 STATE US
FLAG FROM ONE OF THE
FIRST BOATS ON D-DAY
\$437,000 USD**



A Noble Fragment

The mere mention of the Gutenberg Bible, originally published in 1455 by the inventor of the printing press, Johannes Gutenberg, inspires reverence in the heart of every aficionado of great literature and revolutionary Western bookmaking techniques.

A beacon of printmaking prowess and precursor of the Renaissance and Age of Enlightenment, The Gutenberg Bible last appeared in its entirety in October of 1987 at Christie's Auction House, where it sold for \$5.4 million. There are no other known copies in the hands of private collectors, which makes this Gutenberg Leaf, one of the legendary "Noble Fragments", parcelled off and sold by New York rare bookseller Gabriel Wells in the 1920's, a particularly stunning acquisition for the serious collector.



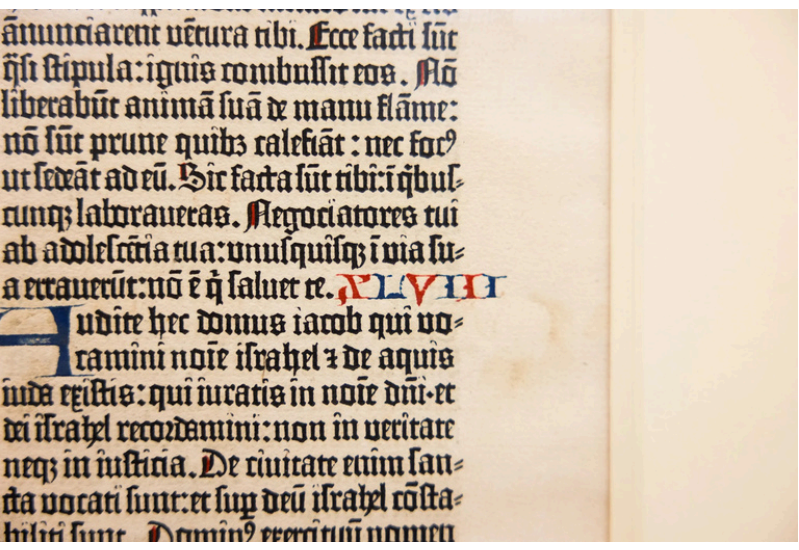
The Gutenberg Bible, a masterpiece of innovation by Johann Gutenberg and Johann Fust, forever transformed how knowledge was shared across the world.

Nearly all surviving copies are now housed in major institutions, with ten proudly held in the United States, including the Library of Congress and the Morgan Library.

This "Noble Fragment" is one of the rarest documents to enter the collectible book market in the last 40 years.

Each Gutenberg Bible features bespoke illuminations designed by artisans and commissioned by the Bible's original owners, making this leaf from Bayliss Rare Books a once-in-a-lifetime investment opportunity.

Own an original page from the first Western printed book (1450-1455) for just \$125,000.00 USD





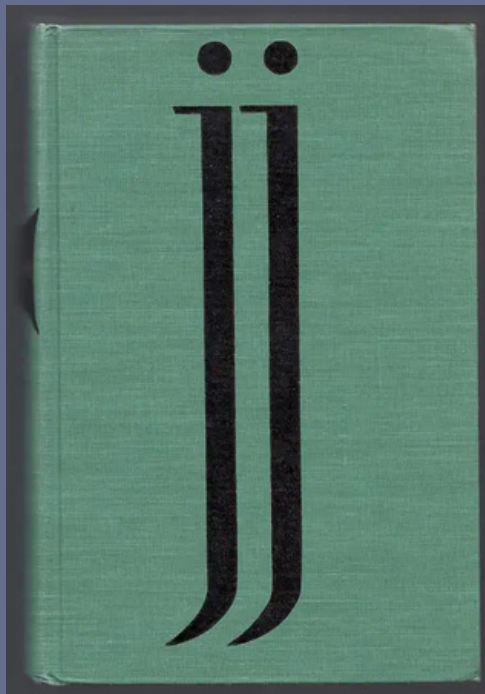
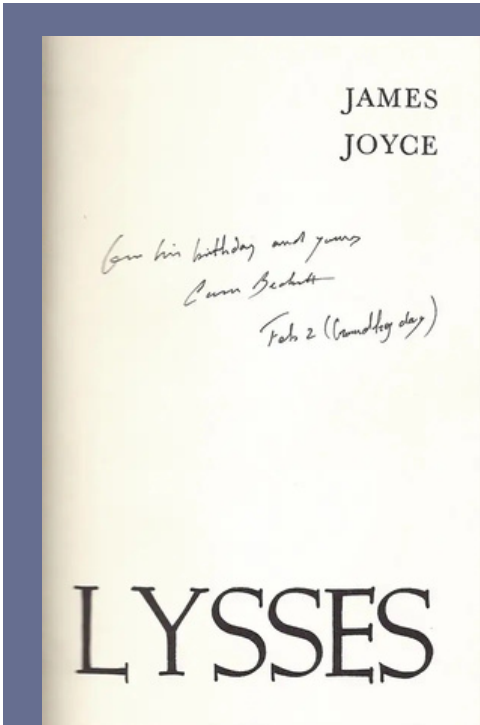
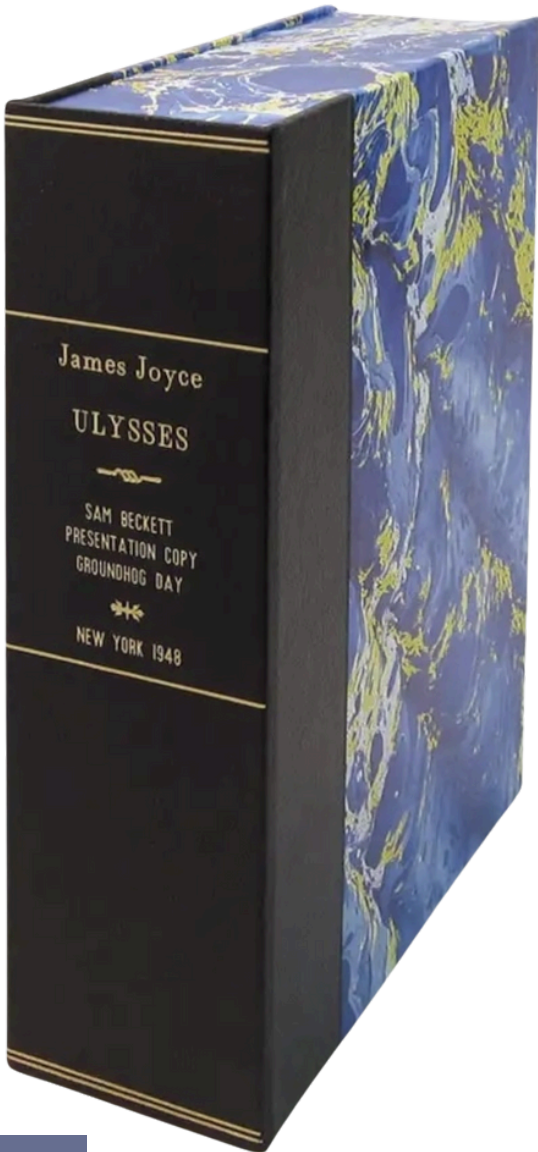
Ulysses: Signed Association Copy



From the personal collection of renowned American calligrapher and designer, Ray DeBoll comes this fascinating keepsake that links two of Ireland's most impressive literary minds, Samuel Beckett of *Waiting for Godot* fame and James Joyce, author of the widely revered novels, Homer's Odyssey-inspired *Ulysses* (featured here) and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, which features Stephen Dedalus, a central character in *Ulysses*. Admirers of Irish ingenuity and modernist literature alike will delight in the whimsical inscription that precedes Beckett's signature.

Ulysses is a shining example of the modernist literary movement that transformed the way writers of the late 19th and early 20th century, and their literary successors, captured on paper the complex thought processes that make all humans unique and yet kindred. James Joyce expertly, and humorously, employs a stream-of-consciousness style throughout his masterpiece, *Ulysses*, to reveal the inner monologues of his richly-developed cast of three characters as they go about their business one fateful summer day (June 16th, 1904) in Dublin, Ireland, Joyce's native land.

Widely considered one of the crowning achievements of literary history, transcending time and place, Joyce's *Ulysses*, still captures the imaginations of devoted readers who uphold the annual tradition of celebrating Bloomsday (named for the novel's central characters, Leopold and his wife, Molly Bloom) on June 16th with costumes, festivals, performances, and readings of the beloved novel in Ireland and abroad.



This magnificent modern reprint hardcover copy of *Ulysses*, signed by Joyce's fellow Irishman, the celebrated playwright, Samuel Beckett, and referencing Joyce's birthday (January 2nd), is a literary treasure of exceptional rarity and tremendous value. **Offered by the The Book Collector's Library, in partnership with Ageless Literature and available for \$17,750**

The Iconic Virginia Woolf



This original multi-colored Ceramic Tile was designed by Vanessa Bell, an accomplished painter and member of the famed avant-garde artists' collective, the Bloomsbury Group. Presented to her younger sister, Virginia, as a Christmas Gift, dated December 25, 1926. This one-of-a-kind creation presents a remarkable opportunity to own a deeply personal part of 20th-century English literary and feminist history. **Available from The Book Collector's Library in partnership with Ageless Literature for \$90,000.**

The sisters' shared passion for creation dates back to childhood when, unable to attend school like their older brother, Thoby, they collaborated on a charming and industrious project: a handcrafted family newspaper with personal stories, family and neighborhood gossip, jokes, drawings, and the Hyde Park Gate News.



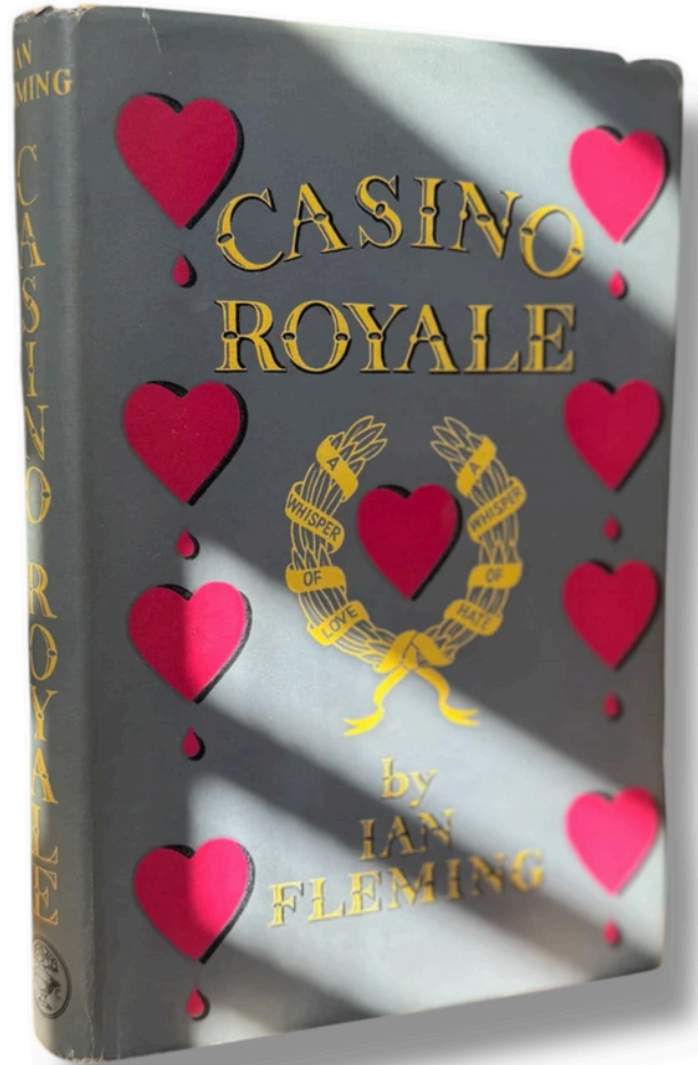
This unique signed 6 1/2" x 5" black and white portrait of Virginia Woolf, photographed in 1933, and signed "Yours / Virginia Woolf" on the lower right of the image in black ink is a near fine image. Originally published in *Virginia Woolf And Her World* by John Lehmann, 1975 (p. 55).

This rare signed portrait, listed by The Book Collector's Library (TBCL), a Montreal-based rare book & document business with over 30 years of experience, is available at Ageless Literature for \$100,000.00





Casino Royale



Unearth an elusive treasure: a first edition of Ian Fleming's groundbreaking masterpiece, *Casino Royale*, released in 1953. This novel introduced the enigmatic and forever iconic figure, James Bond, Agent 007. This true first is accompanied by the original dust jacket—an artwork meticulously crafted by Fleming himself.

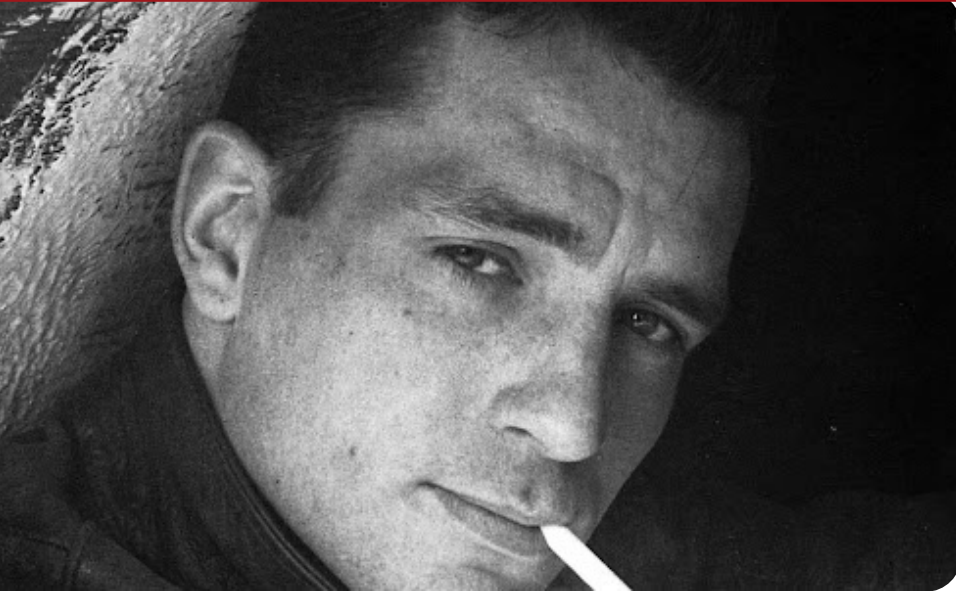
To possess this esteemed volume is to clutch a key that unlocks the shadows of a storied past, a gateway to the exhilarating depths of espionage and intrigue. Those who dare to collect should feel a sense of artistic fulfillment when their shelves are braced with this unforgettable and highly sought-after modern first.

\$47,450

-Bayliss Rare Books-



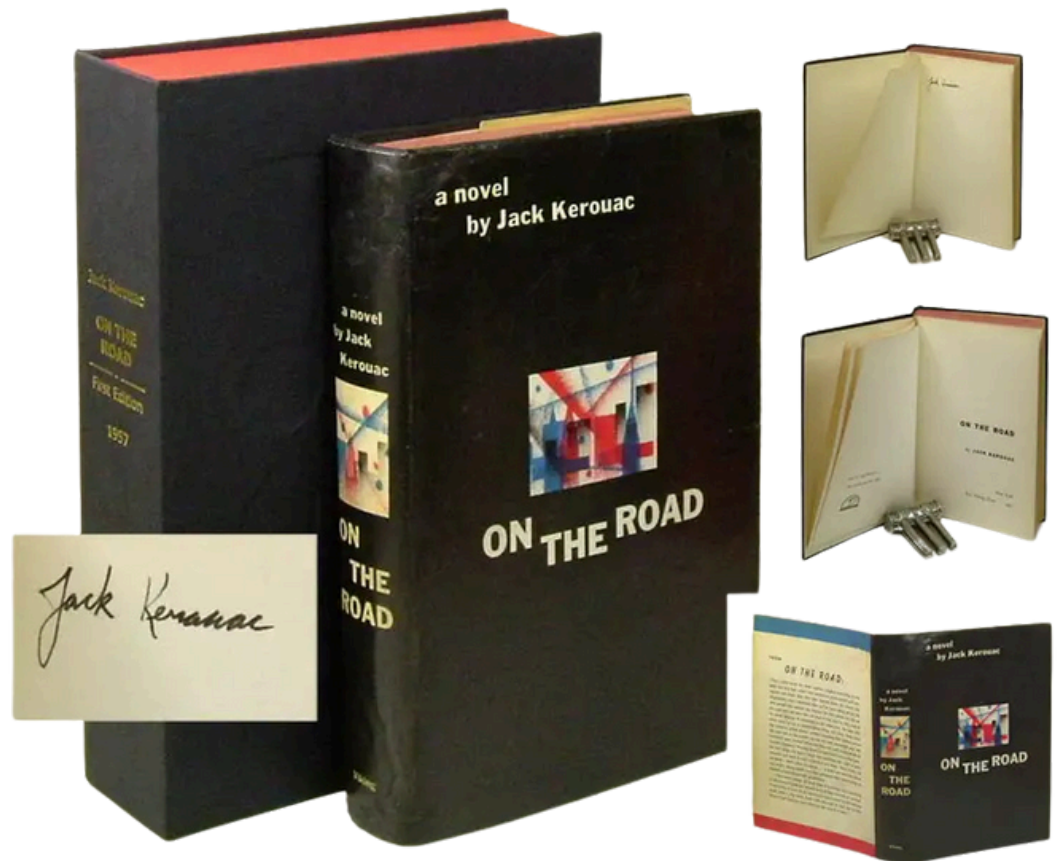
Hit The Road, Jack!



A signed first edition hardcover of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, offered by **The Book Collector's Library** is in very good or better condition, available for **\$28,750 through Ageless Literature**. This remarkable volume merits a place of honor among revered works of American autobiographical fiction, captivating travel narratives, and insightful studies of 1950s counterculture.

Penned in 1951 by the Founding Father of "the Beat Generation", Kerouac's novel, *On the Road*, published in 1957, catapulted Kerouac to fame and inspired a broad swath of culture makers and literature students captivated by his radical exploration of American values and man's perpetual search for meaning.

Kerouac used *On the Road* as a vehicle for cataloging his cross-country adventures and exploits, and those of his larger-than-life counterpart, and fellow Beat writer, Neal Cassady, immortalized as the ebullient character, Dean Moriarty.



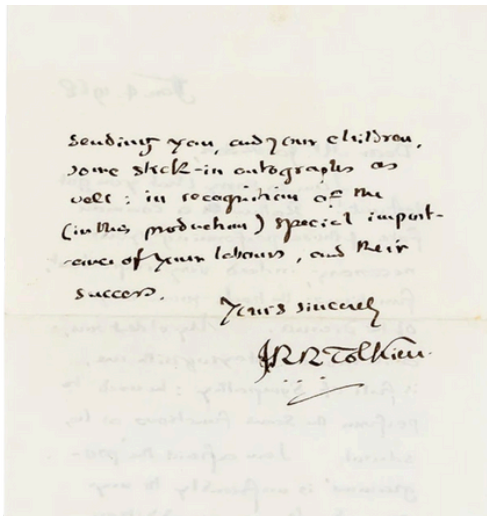
Kerouac fashioned the narrator, Sal Paradise, after himself, and in doing so, created one of the key texts essential to understanding the postwar American spirit and the creative landscape of the late 1950s. His free-form prose evokes the vitality and creative license celebrated by jazz musicians of the era, like Miles Davis, and painters like Jackson Pollock, and distills it into several hundred pages of requisite reading, typed on a continuous sheet of paper over three weeks in April 1951. You now have the opportunity to own the text in its first edition released to the public and signed by the legendary author.



These original handwritten letters from J.R.R. Tolkien, addressed to the esteemed Ken K. Jackson, represent a profound connection to one of literature's most revered architects of fantasy.

Tolkien, the mastermind behind *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, crafted these letters with a personal touch that transcends mere correspondence, offering a rare insight into his thoughts and inspirations.

Each letter serves as a unique window into the collaborative spirit that flourished between Tolkien and Jackson, who was the technical director for Humphrey Carpenter's musical adaptation of *The Hobbit*. These documents are not merely collectibles; they are treasured mementos of a remarkable partnership and the creative force behind timeless tales.



Tolkien tenderly recognizes the contributions of “*the back-room boys of the drama*” who were left out of an earlier autographing session for the cast, *noting their “necessary, indeed very important, functions”* and *recalling with fondness when his eldest son, John Tolkien, Jr. performed crew duties at school.* Tolkien included *signed copies of the musical program for Ken Jackson and the backstage crew.*

A delightful and unique artifact acquired by Bayliss Rare Books and presented on Ageless Literature, with a list price of \$19,500

Any passionate collector of Tolkien ephemera will be charmed by this very personal handwritten memento, highlighting the versatility of Tolkien's fantastic creations, which so effervescently spring from the page to enchant stage and screen.

Pictured Above

A fine handwritten and signed letter to Ken Jackson, technical director of Humphrey Carpenter's musical adaptation of *The Hobbit*. 1 ½ pages.

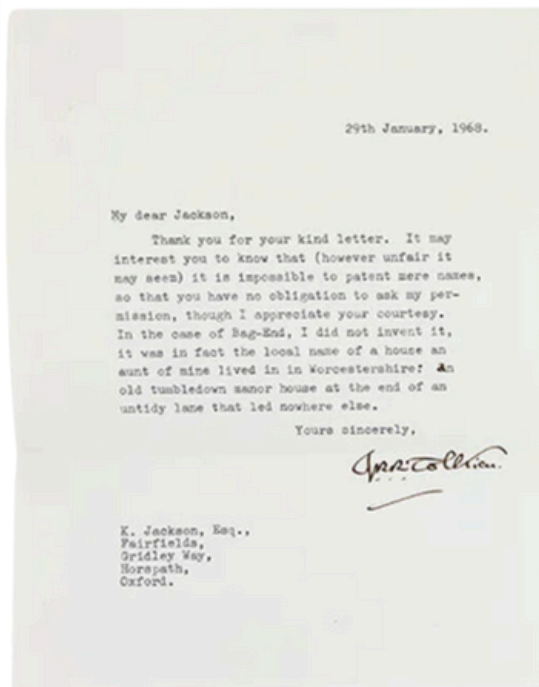
\$19,500

-Bayliss Rare Books-

Pictured on the right, is a fine, typed, signed letter to K. Jackson, dated 29th January 1968 on where the origin of Frodo and Bilbo's house name, Bag-End, came from, with the original stamped envelope with 4d postage stamp. 1 page.

\$21,375.00

-Bayliss Rare Books-

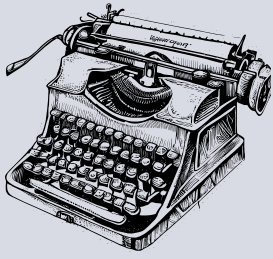


Tolkien shares the origin of the name “Bag-End”, which refers to Frodo and Bilbo Baggins' house, brave cousins and two of the most cherished characters in Tolkien's ever-popular fantasy series, *The Lord of the Rings*—and indeed, in all of literature. Tolkien reveals to Jackson that the Baggins' house-name originated from a nickname locals gave to his aunt Jane's English farmhouse located at the end of a lane in Dormston in Worcestershire (near Evesham). Tolkien playfully laments that “... (however unfair it may seem) it is impossible to patent mere names...”

This highly collectable and elegantly signed letter is only available by Bayliss Rare Books and can be purchased at AgelessLiterature.com



A Private Correspondence Between Two Legends



14 letters from Lawrence Durrell to Henry Miller

British novelist and poet, Lawrence Durrell, and brother of influential naturalist Gerald Durrell initiated a fruitful and enduring friendship with writer Henry Miller after reading *Tropic of Cancer* and mailing a letter to Miller, noting the novel's profound impact on his personal and professional development. Miller responded to Durrell with genuine interest and thus began a years-long correspondence with his fellow writer and expat.



Their correspondence includes this spectacular collection of 14 letters, 13 typed and one handwritten, from Lawrence Durrell to Henry Miller, largely written between 1975 and 1979, and primarily sent by Durrell from Sommières, a commune in southern France to Miller's residence in southern California.



Marvelous description of your new question answer business! get it read to you. Its from MARY HENDER 1193B Sproul Street Norwalk Calif 90650.
Lawrence Durrell
I will send her a book and a line of thanks. Its good news. More soon.
A new project has come up for the BBC involving a trip up the Nile to top end, The High Dam. I leave for London Oct 7 Then Egypt. I-

Lawrence Durrell SEPTEMBER TEN .

P.O.B. 15 - Sommières
Dear Henry: A time since I wrote -- I was in a mad scramble to finish work in hand while at the same time preparing a trip to Egypt for the BBC, to make a documentary for a month and a half. I accordingly locked myself up and finished the big *Remains* book -- coffee table -- called Greek islands; and now today I have just sent of the last of three, the second of my *Quintessence* -- the 2nd novel they will be called one day, if they are finished... Durr I leave here October 7 for London where I stay a few days with old Alan Thomas and then explain with the BBC unit. We are going right up to the High Dam and Kom Ombo etc. Possibly my last Egypt trip. Meanwhile our great love affair has entered the *Hold up* stage, as marriage is, and I am planning to stake the papers for divorce on the 22nd. Before leaving, I can't take it no more. J'ai vécu un cauchemar et j'ai perdu une fortune. It has been a monumental error of judgement and will cost me dear in alimony-- it seems cruel to be foolish to this extent in my old age and without a pension! And of course now that money is the name the *Faustian* "Mare" shows itself for what it is. I thought of some passages from *Les Amants* about the black illustrative eye of Hedy, and the *Red* for affection and protection and to be a bit drolitzer... Ha Ha. You should, this little homo's eye, when money is discussed, it becomes black and dry as the anus of Time's dog! Still come what may I must be free even if bankrupt. With the ground plan for this year. All I have seized is already engaged for these worthy ends. I have already initialled the papers; now to sign. I must say the I admire French literature it calls to think that I shall work in my old age simply to subsidize the petitions of *Virgilia* like Blondin and other associated writers-- for she's a *Truche* creature as well and keeps a pretty dramatic court going in Paris in the *VIE*... Well, I have really pulled the shit bucket over my own head this time and suppose that I formally deserve this set back. I am thinking seriously of spending a year in Greece, letting this big barracks of a place, and facing a Greek winter and spring-- wonderful! But first, I must deal with Egypt. I shall be back in London about November 15 then back here to tidy up my affairs. Then perhaps I shall take the *Faustian* and may show to *Corfu*. G'bye, what a fool I have been. Now I must try and stabilize my finances with this huge willow tied round my neck -- and I have neither the talent of Balzac nor the industry of Scott. I hope that things are well with you and that these letters don't make you weep because of *sympathy*.
much love-- *Milieu* also one, who is staying here until the papers are served and in order, amiablement
Lam

The intimate details of Durrell's daily life in France, so colorfully chronicled in these private letters to Miller demonstrate the closeness of his friendship with Miller and transform the minutiae of everyday existence into a rousing series of letters that would satisfy any serious book collector's deepest curiosity.

This incredible, one-of-a-kind collection of 14 of Durrell's letters to Miller, procured by The Book Collector's Library and listed through Ageless Literature for \$57,500.00 is an irresistible investment opportunity.



Marceau, Miller, & Musings

In 1973, the incomparable French actor, artist, and mime, Marcel Marceau wrote an impassioned, playfully illustrated, and personally autographed 13-page letter to Tropic of Cancer author, Henry Miller expressing his desire for a film adaptation of Miller's 1959 novella about a famous clown, Auguste's search for meaning, *The Smile at the Foot of the Ladder*.

Like Auguste, Marceau knew deep grief and courageously chose a joyous vocation. As a Jewish clown and actor living in France, Marceau saved at least seventy Jewish children during WWII, helping them escape occupied France and the horrors of the Holocaust by leading them to safety in neutral Sweden. Using his exceptional skills of mimicry to distract and calm the children and keep them quiet during their dangerous journey to safety, Marceau, with this humble act of heroism, created space for joy and laughter in the lives of children exposed to humanity's most harrowing conditions.

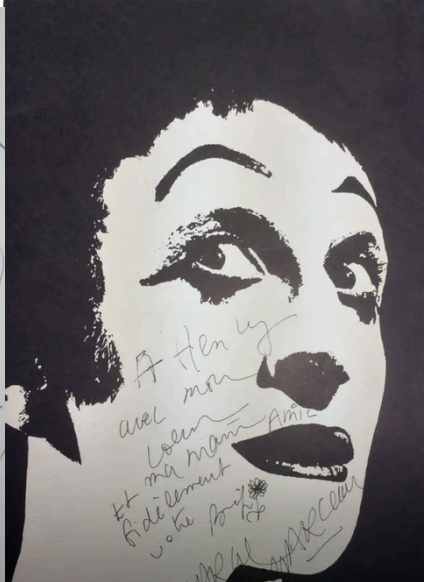
Marceau's father was murdered in the notorious Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944. This immense tragedy and others informed his work and outlook on life and created his unique blend of vulnerability as a radical act and joy as a form of resistance.

In Miller, Marceau saw a man who ventured into unknown territory and fearlessly blazed a path for others. Despite the obvious differences in their chosen mediums of expression—a writer lives by words; a mime uses none—it's not difficult to see why Marceau felt powerfully drawn to Miller's thought-provoking and unexpectedly spiritual work and wrote to him to propose their collaboration on a film adaptation of *The Smile at the Foot of the Ladder*.

This distinctive, illustrated 13-page missive, presented by **The Book Collector's Library, in partnership with Ageless Literature, is available for \$7,950**. Authored by one tremendous talent and addressed to a kindred creative boundary pusher whose work he deeply admired, this correspondence from 1973 is an unparalleled artifact of mutual inspiration and artistic collaboration. The visionary and symbiotic relationship between Marceau and Miller, both highly respected innovators in their respective fields, and exceptionally raw and honest human beings who inspired their fellow man to live more deeply, further elevates the cultural significance and investment value of this unique illustrated piece of literary and cinematic history.



Washington Dc
le 22. Janvier
73
Mon cher HENRY
Miller,
d'abord pour 1973
vous envoie tous
vos X... avec
affection et le
ser de Bp
ni le dessin dans
le livre. Je
vous remercie de

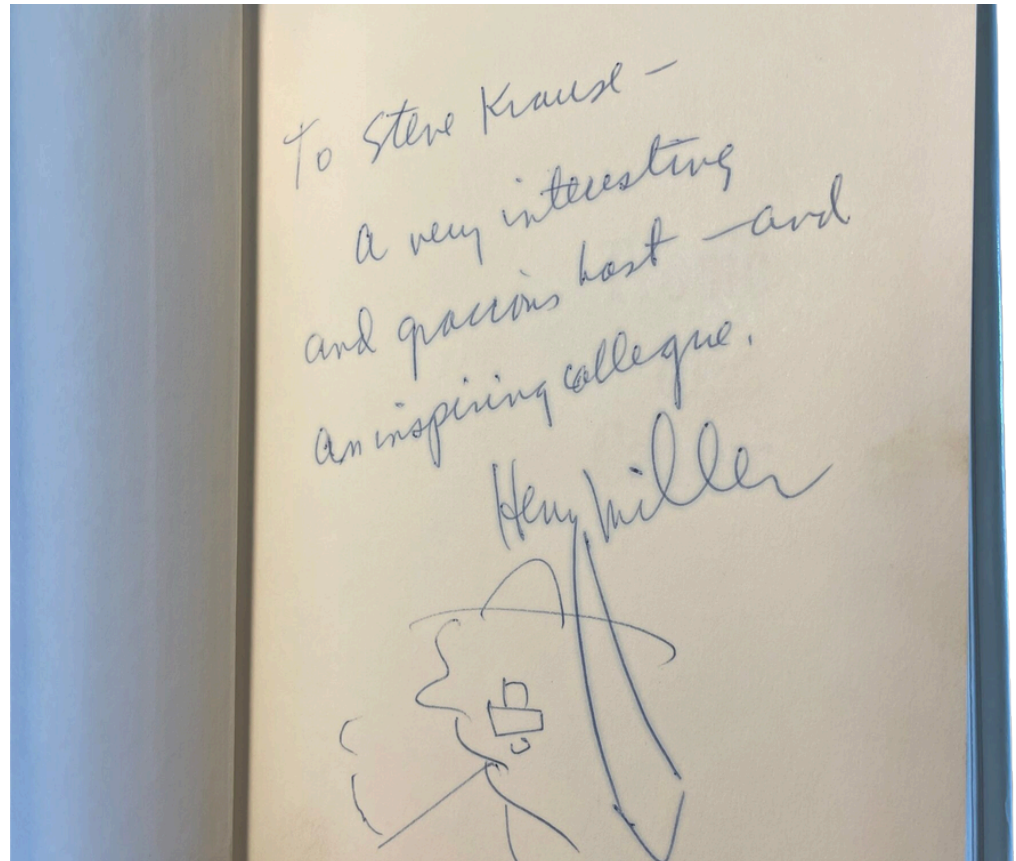
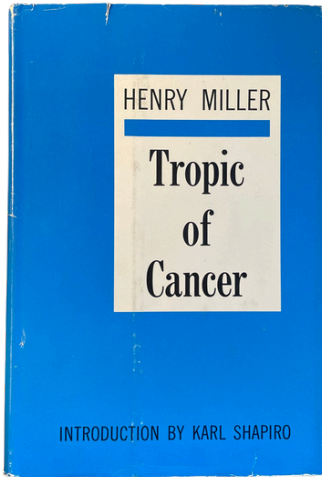


vous me voyez
Etes ... un
frère -voyant
Toujours à vous
MARCEAU
MARCEAU
Ecrivez 2 lignes seule
ment, même si vous en
avez pas une ...
V. M.

Ageless Literature

READ BANNED BOOKS

INSCRIBED TROPIC OF CANCER



Signed with Personality

This signed first American edition, third printing of Henry Miller's infamous autobiographical novel, *Tropic of Cancer*, complete with unique drawing by Miller, commands attention as a superb specimen of personalized literary history that is integral to the eternal pursuit of freedom from censorship that Miller, and countless writers before and since, so valiantly championed on behalf of readers and book collectors everywhere.

Brought to market *by Hale & Co.*
Rare Books and listed for \$2,175

Miller's defiant declaration of his raw humanity, sexual potency, and intellectual independence echoes through every page, inciting his readers to claim theirs in turn, without permission or apology.

Challenging Laws

As Miller exhorted in *Tropic of Cancer*, "I believe that today more than ever a book should be sought after even if it has only one great page in it. We must search for fragments, splinters, toenails, anything that has ore in it, anything that is capable of resuscitating the body and the soul." Miller's provocative tour de force breathed new life into the dustiest corners of the stodgiest libraries and galvanized inventive writers like Lawrence Durrell to stand up and be heard.

Originally published in Paris, France in 1934, Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*, an account of a young writer's experiences in Paris was banned in the U.S. due to the book's sexually explicit nature. In a landmark case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of Miller's book after a 1964 printing of the book sparked obscenity trials. The Supreme Court recognized the literary merit and cultural significance of Miller's ribald novel and thus set a new precedent for freedom of the press in the era of free love and the sexual revolution.

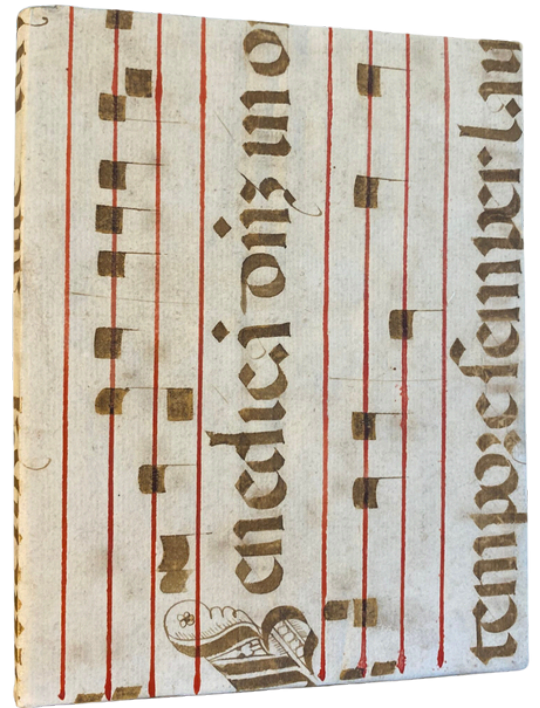


KASPER STURM'S HISTORY OF THE WORLD

German-born Kasper Sturm, a 16th century historian, law student, imperial herald and associate of Martin Luther, the theologian at the helm of the Protestant Reformation, reported on politics and major events to the Nuremberg Council.



During his tenure, he studied the Nuremberg Chronicle, an illustrated encyclopedia of secular and biblical history. This work, *Die Kleyn Furstlich Chronica, published in 1544 by Kasper Sturm*, offers a detailed historical account from the beginning of time to the fall of the Roman Empire, featuring over 30 illustrated pages with portraits of notable figures like Julius Caesar and Jesus Christ. **With only one known private copy still in existence**, Sturm's History of the World, an erudite labor of love inspired by his fascination with the Nuremberg Chronicle, is exceedingly rare and extremely valuable from both a historical and literary perspective.



This extraordinary tome is one of the last surviving editions of a remarkable book, that has been beautifully preserved for more than 480 years. Its exquisite rebinding features a rare antiphonary leaf from the 1600s, showcasing the meticulous craftsmanship of its time. Impeccably preserved and adorned with a striking binding, this book is not just a relic; it is a gateway to the 16th-century world. WorldCat confirms its rarity, listing only two other copies in institutional collections.

Available for purchase through Hale & Co Rare Books for \$18,750

This volume bears a significant connection to Kasper Sturm. Sturm's deep friendship with Martin Luther was pivotal during the turbulent Diet of Worms in 1521, as he safeguarded Luther and guided him to safely make his exile from the Catholic Church an event immortalized in stained glass at St. Catherine's Church. This book is not merely a historical artifact; it is a testament to a transformative era in history, embodying the spirit of reform and the struggles of its time.



12-1884 Century

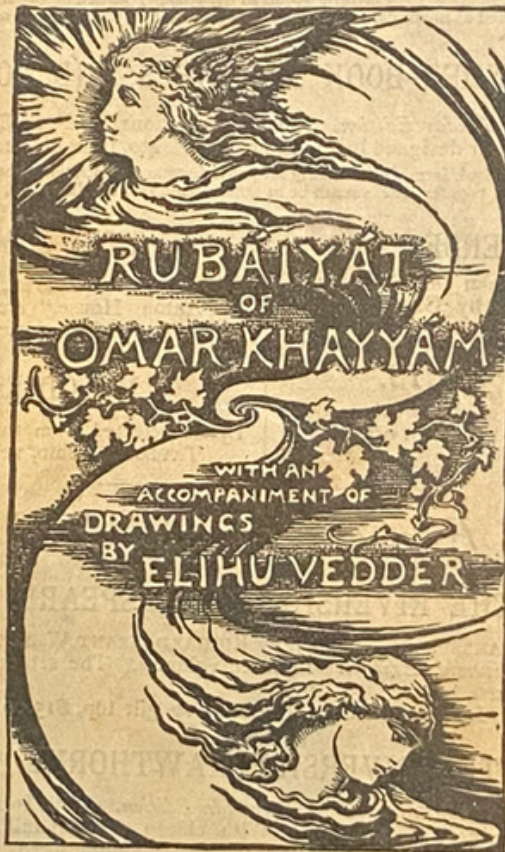
BOOKS

ELIHU VEDDER'S ILLUSTRATIONS to the RUBÁIYÁT OF OMAR KHAYYÁM

the Astronomer Poet of Persia. Rendered into English Verse by EDWARD FITZGERALD. With ornamental title-page and fifty-six magnificent full-page Illustrations, reproduced from designs by ELIHU VEDDER. Bound in a new and unique style, the cover being designed by Mr. VEDDER. Folio, \$25.00. *Edition de Luxe*, limited to one hundred copies, printed on Japanese paper, and produced in the most superb style. Folio, each, \$100.00. (The publishers reserve the right to raise the price of this edition.)

TITLES OF THE

- The Awakening.*
- Solitude.*
- The Invitation.*
- The Song in the Wilderness.*
- The Blowing Rose.*
- The Courts of Jamshyd.*
- The River-Lip.*
- The Long Rest.*
- Theology.*
- Whence and Whither.*
- The Cup of Despair.*
- The Vain Pursuit.*
- Omar's Horoscope.*
- Vain Questioning.*
- The Throne of Saturn.*
- The Soul of the Cup.*
- The Heavenly Potter.*
- The Cup of Love.*
- The Cup of Death.*
- The Suicide.*
- Death's Review.*
- The Inevitable Fate.*
- The Bitter Cup.*
- The Daughter of the Vine.*



ILLUSTRATIONS:

- The Divorce of Reason.*
- The Jarring Sects.*
- The Mighty Mahmúd.*
- The Vine.*
- The Present and the Past.*
- The Soul's Answer.*
- The Fates.*
- Limitation.*
- The Recording Angel.*
- The Last Man.*
- Love Affrighted at the Sight of Hell.*
- The Magdalen.*
- In the Beginning.*
- Giving and Taking.*
- Within the Pottery House.*
- The Ungainly Pot.*
- The Loquacious Vessels.*
- The End of Ramazan.*
- Omar's Tomb.*
- Spring.*
- Youth and Age.*
- The Sorry Scheme.*
- In Memoriam, and others.*

This poem has been for many years known to English readers as one of the most exquisite fruits of Oriental genius. Mr. Vedder has for the last ten years studied the poem with a view to illustration, and his peculiar characteristics as an artist fit him especially for this work. The designs which he has made for the volume have a power and dignity of conception hitherto almost unknown to American art.

There are fifty-six of these designs, in which are incorporated the one hundred and one stanzas given in Fitzgerald's translation of the poem. The drawings are reproduced in fac-simile, and as the method used admits of printing in any desired color, the results are nearer the original designs in every respect than could be secured by any other known method. The plates, which are printed by hand on heavy plate paper, measure 11 inches by 8½, and the page measures 12 inches by 15¾.

The Introduction to Fitzgerald's version follows the Illustrations. The Artist has furnished Notes on the Illustrations, which explain some of their hidden meanings, and for these Notes has made ornamental borders.

He has also separate designs for pages devoted to the Poet, the Artist, and the Publisher; and the Title-page, Frontispiece, and Dedication.

* For sale by book-sellers and by the publishers,

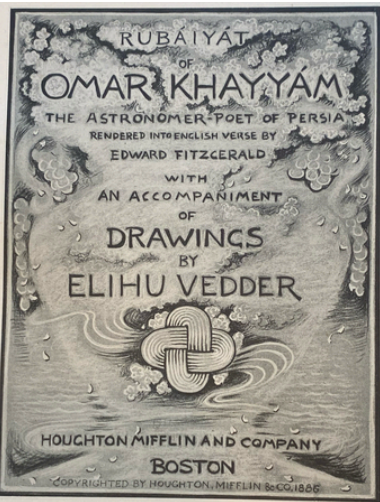
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY,

4 Park Street, Boston; 11 East 17th Street, New-York.

An original advertisement for the First Edition.

SIGNED ASSOCIATION REVIEW COPY RUBAIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM 1886 FROM THE ELIHU VEDDER FAMILY

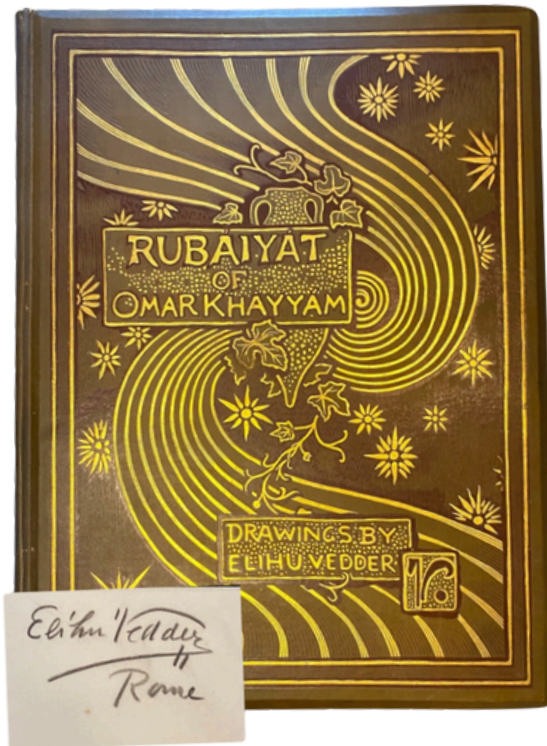
Signed by Elihu Vedder in "Rome," with exceptional provenance, rare accompanying ephemera, and unique features, making it a singular treasure in literary and artistic history.



*Elihu Vedder
Rome*

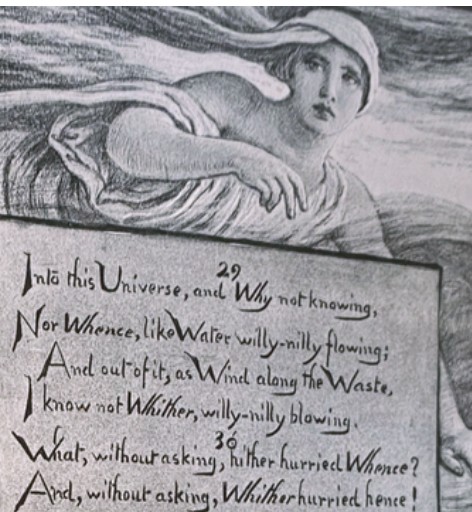
A one-of-a-kind, author's pre-publication review copy of the large quarto first trade edition of *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*, illustrated by Elihu Vedder. Published in 1886, this exceptionally rare copy is distinguished by Vedder's signature on the title page, inscribed with the location "Rome," where he spent 11 months crafting the groundbreaking illustrations for this work.

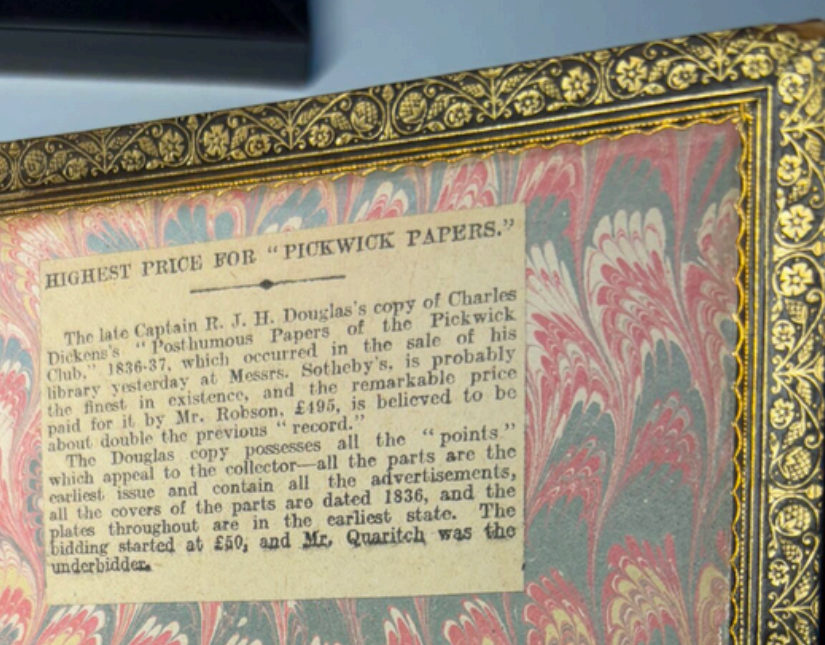
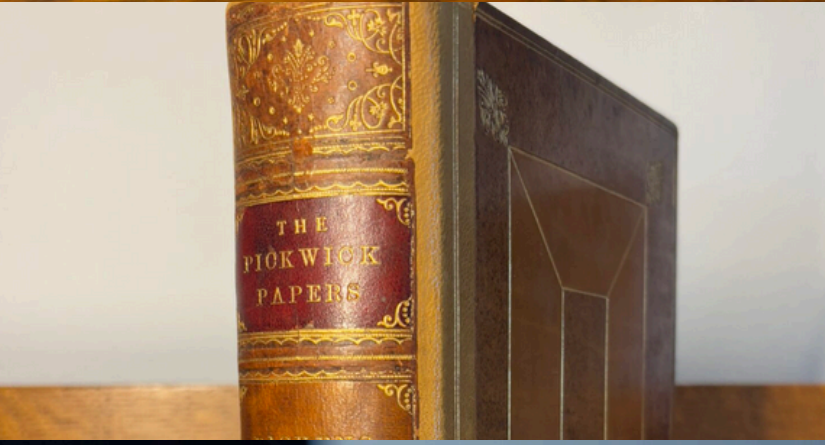
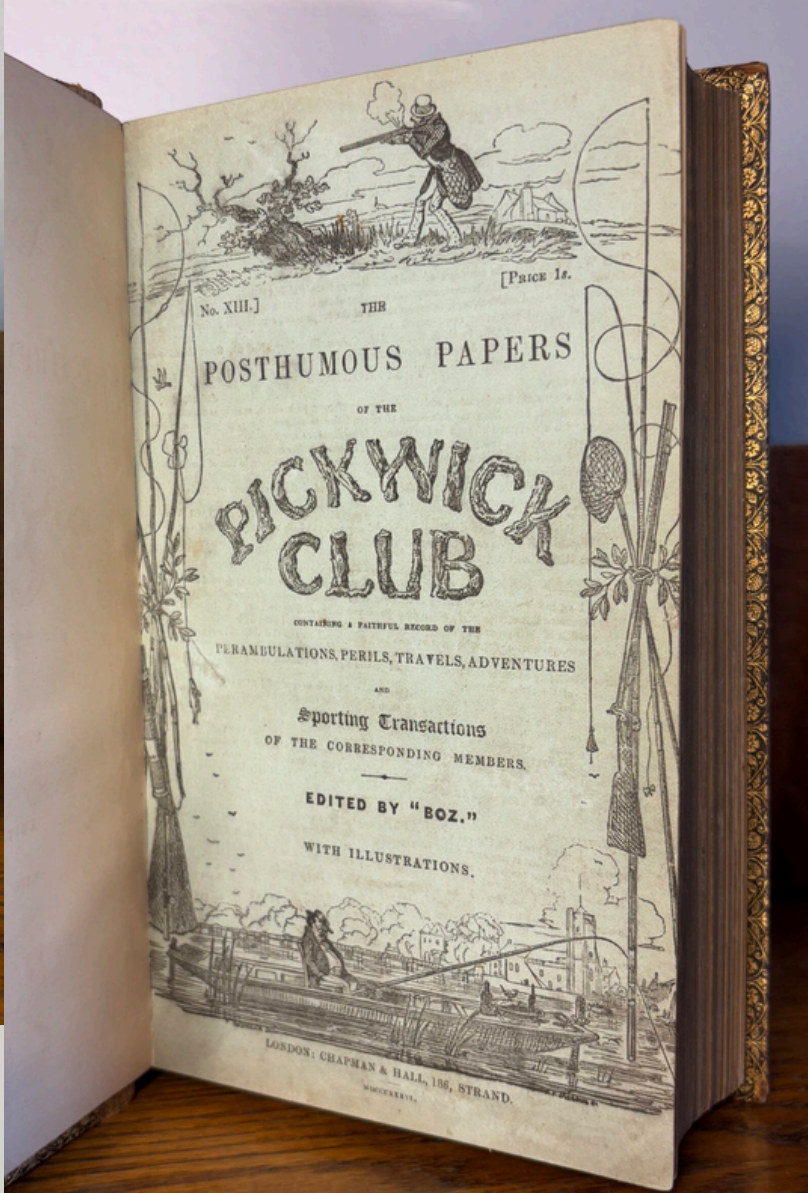
The only other signed copies of Vedder's *Rubaiyat* known to the market are the deluxe folio editions numbered out of 100. Accompanying this remarkable volume is an advertisement sheet for both the trade and deluxe editions, dated December 1884 likely from Vedder's hand, just weeks after the book's initial publication—a rare piece of ephemera that adds to its historical significance.



Adding to its distinctiveness, this copy deviates from the first edition's hallmark "unopened" pages. Instead, it includes blank pages in between, where the first editions would have been bound together, a striking feature that underscores its unique pre-publication status. This copy also boasts an extraordinary provenance, having belonged to Vedder himself and remaining within his family for over 140 years before entering the rare book market. In excellent condition, the book features clean, bright pages and retains its original integrity. The additional loose advertisement sheet further cements its rarity as a tangible link to the work's release and reception.

Vedder's *Rubaiyat* is widely recognized as one of the most influential illustrated books ever produced, setting new standards for artistic and literary design. This signed review copy, with its association to the artist and its unique features, is a singular treasure—an unrepeatable opportunity for collectors and connoisseurs of literary history. **Available for \$15,000 from Hale & Co. Rare Books.**





*The Posthumous Papers of the
Pickwick Club* by Charles Dickens
COMPLETE TRUE FIRST FINELY BOUND
FEATURING ALL 43 PLATES

This finely bound volume features *The Pickwick Papers*, Charles Dickens' groundbreaking first novel, meticulously preserving the original first appearances of each serialized issue together in one elegant presentation. Illustrated with 43 plates throughout and in fine condition, this exceptional volume offers a rare opportunity to own a definitive piece of literary history.

Originally published in monthly installments, *The Pickwick Papers* catapulted Dickens from an obscure journalist to England's most celebrated author virtually overnight. The first installment, released in April 1836 in an edition of just 1,000 copies, garnered modest attention. However, the introduction of the beloved character Sam Weller in chapter 10, released as part of the fourth installment in July 1836, transformed the series into a publishing phenomenon. Demand surged, prompting the publishers to reprint earlier installments to satisfy the growing audience.

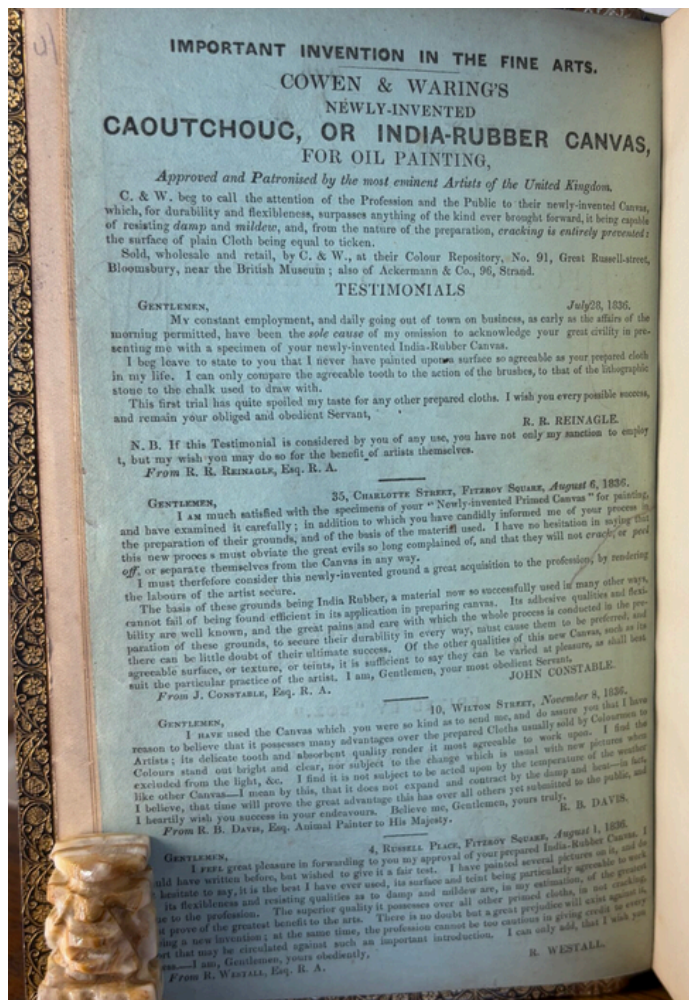


By the time the work was issued in book form in November 1837, numerous textual corrections had been made. Collectors often grapple with the intricate and varied textual points tied to the original parts, as a “perfect” set with all such points is effectively unattainable in the book format.

The serialization was initially conceived as a showcase for the illustrations of Robert Seymour, whose tragic death by suicide after the first issue necessitated a swift replacement. Robert William Buss briefly assumed the role but proved unsuited to steel engraving. The position eventually fell to Hablot Knight Browne (“Phiz”), who became Dickens' principal collaborator for the next twenty years, cementing an enduring creative partnership.

Elegantly bound in octavo format (210 x 122 mm), this volume not only preserves Dickens' literary debut but also features stunning original illustrations that bring the story to life. A fine copy, it serves as both a testament to the serialized origins of Dickens' genius and a remarkable collector's piece.

\$7,200 from Hale & Co Rare Books



The Passionate Friends

A fascinating exchange between two literary titans is captured in this signed 1913 first edition of *The Passionate Friends* by H.G. Wells, where the famed author playfully challenges George Bernard Shaw—through an inscription to his wife—to venture into novel writing.

Warmly inscribed by Wells to Mrs. Charlotte Shaw and her husband, George Bernard Shaw—the celebrated Irish playwright behind *Pygmalion*, the 1912 work that later inspired the beloved musical *My Fair Lady*.

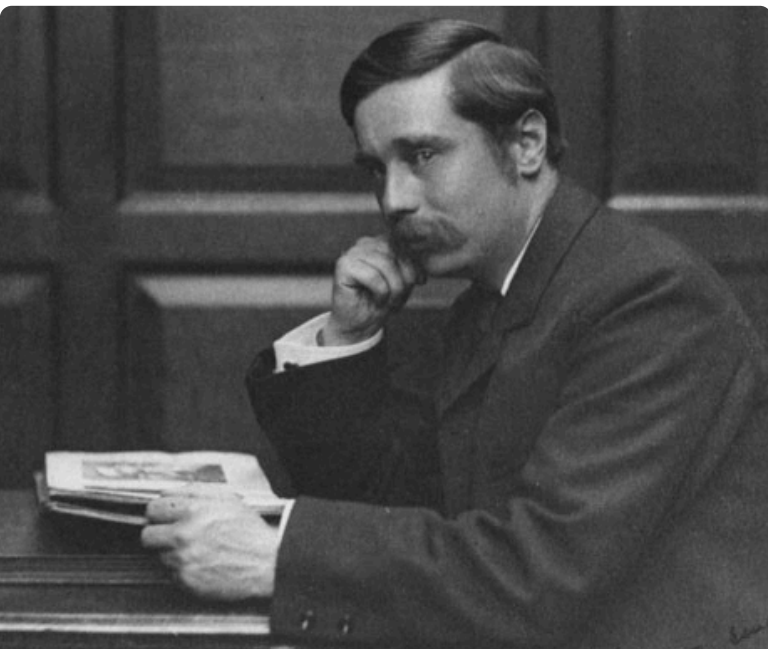
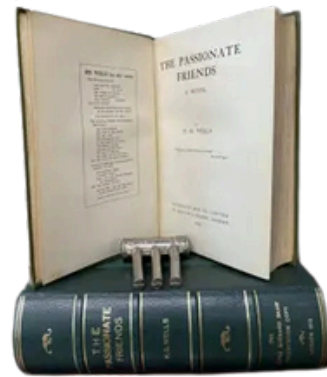
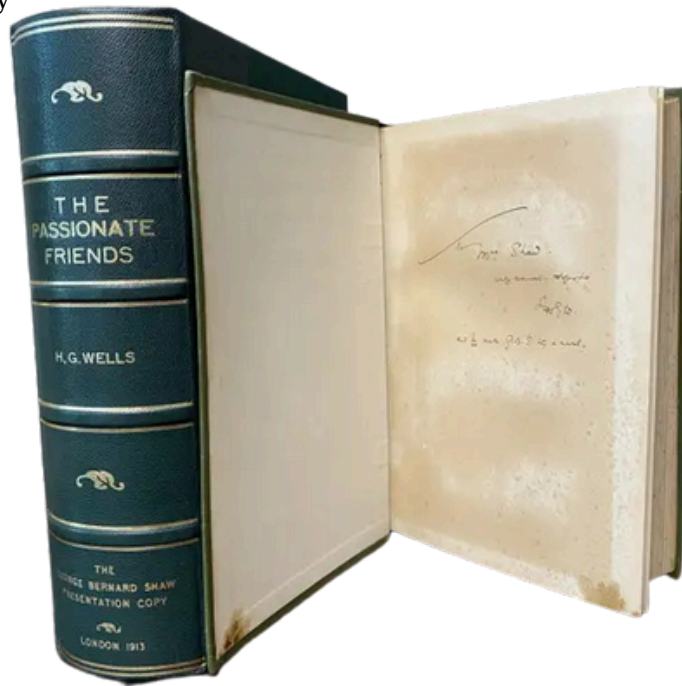
The playful inscription reads:
"Mrs. Shaw / with warm regards / HGW / and do make GBS try a novel."
This remark playfully nods to an earlier exchange in which Shaw had encouraged Wells to try his hand at writing a play.

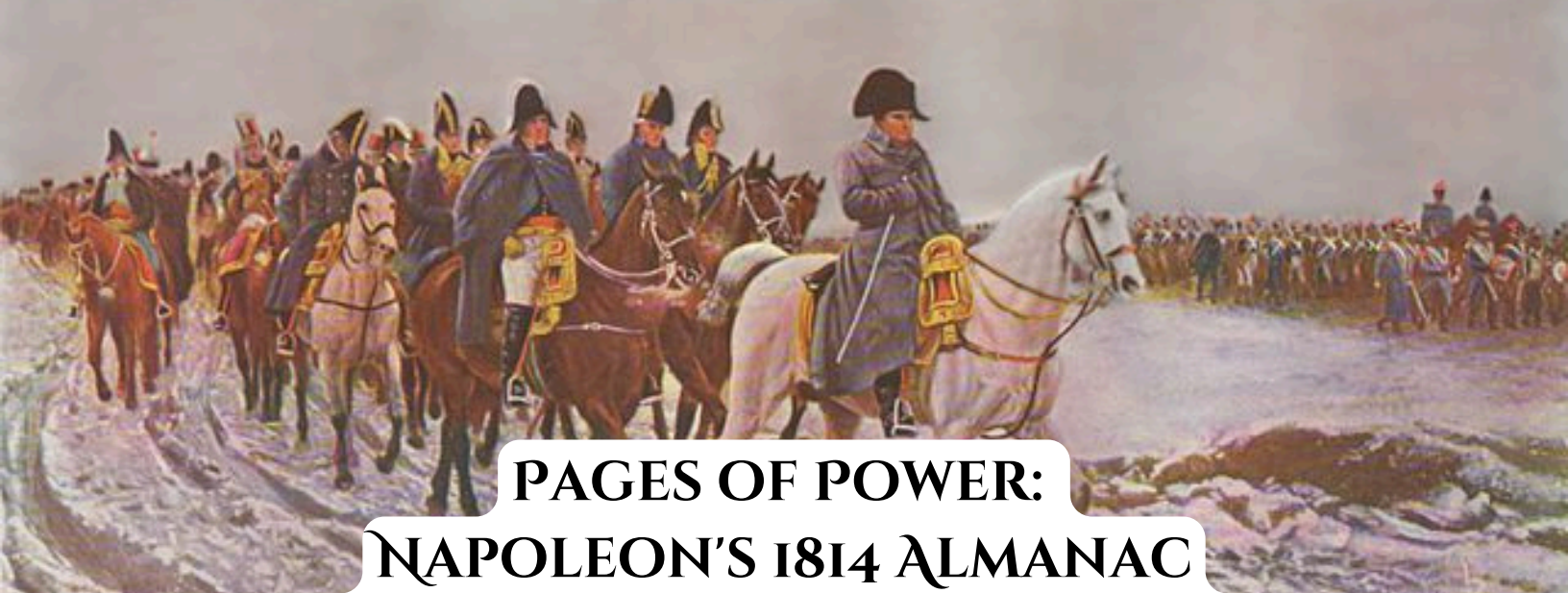
More romantic reminiscence than science fiction, Wells' bread and butter, *The Passionate Friends* explores first love, lost and found, and lost again, and the inevitability of change as youthful idealism gives way to the harsh realities of adulthood. Wells' intriguing departure from the science fiction he's so strongly associated with, coupled with the personalized and jocular inscription, instructing Shaw to "try a novel", offers thrilling insight into the literary meeting of the sharp and socially curious minds of Wells and Shaw.

Wells and Shaw had a dynamic personal and professional relationship which inspired some of the most groundbreaking work and social commentary of the twentieth century. Wells and Shaw, united in their passionate intellectual pursuits, commitment to socialist ideology (as evidenced by their mutual involvement in the politically active Fabian Society), and tireless ambition to change the world by changing minds, maintained an unequalled exchange of letters and ideas for at least forty-five years, despite vastly different temperaments and an enduringly argumentative and teasing, yet friendly rivalry.

This first edition hardcover presentation copy of H.G. Wells' novel, *The Passionate Friends*, signed by Wells for his friend and colleague, George Bernard Shaw, and Mrs. Charlotte Shaw, is offered by **The Book Collector's Library in conjunction with Ageless Literature for \$44,000.**

This extraordinary volume offers a rare chance to own a tangible piece of literary history—an artifact that connects two of the most prolific and influential minds in modern literature. With nearly fifty years of correspondence and collaboration between H.G. Wells and George Bernard Shaw, this signed first edition stands as a remarkable testament to their ongoing dialogue, both in print and in life.





PAGES OF POWER: NAPOLEON'S 1814 ALMANAC A WINDOW INTO THE EMPEROR'S FINAL CAMPAIGN



In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte faced the twilight of his reign, locked in a desperate struggle to defend France against an overwhelming coalition of European powers. With just 70,000 to 100,000 troops under his command, he confronted Allied forces numbering over 400,000, a daunting numerical disadvantage. Yet, in the face of insurmountable odds, Napoleon's tactical brilliance reached new heights during the Six Days' Campaign, where he delivered a series of stunning victories. Despite his efforts, the relentless advance of the Allies culminated in the fall of Paris on March 30. Stripped of support and forced to abdicate on April 6, Napoleon retreated into exile on Elba under the Treaty of Fontainebleau. This pivotal year marked the collapse of his empire, yet it cemented his enduring legacy as one of history's most formidable military leaders.



Hale & Co. Rare Books is honored to present an extraordinary artifact from this historic year: a rare 1814 edition of the *Almanach de la Cour, de la Ville et des Départements*. Elegantly bound in red morocco leather, this diminutive 32mo volume is adorned with gilt tooling, Napoleon's imperial monogram, the French Imperial Eagle, and motifs reminiscent of the Legion of Honor.

Produced during the tumultuous final days of Napoleon's reign, it provides a tangible connection to his once-mighty empire. With 240 pages of detailed information about the court and its administration, this almanac is an exceptional piece of Napoleonic history. Once part of Roland Bonaparte's collection and recorded as a singular copy in the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France*, this exquisite volume is now available to discerning collectors seeking to own a piece of the legacy of France's most iconic leader.

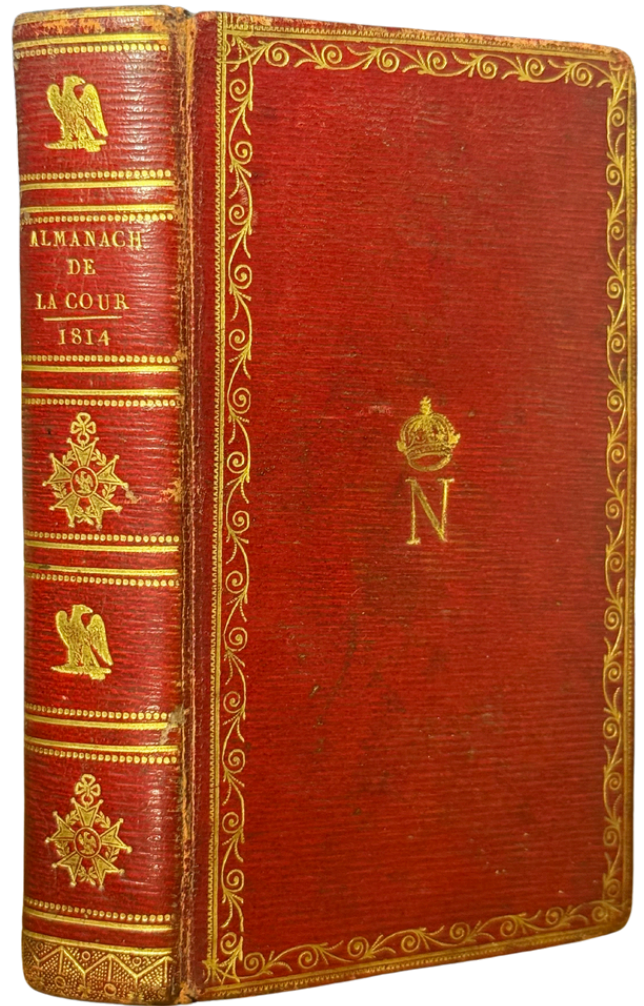
“The Brave Napoleon Almanac”

1814 Fine Binding Excellent Condition



A remarkable artifact of Napoleonic history, this *Almanach de la Cour* for 1814 is exquisitely bound in red morocco leather, with gilt tooling adorning its edges and spine. The binding bears the imperial monogram of Napoleon Bonaparte, alongside the French Imperial Eagle and a repeating design evocative of the Legion of Honor on the spine. Created during the penultimate year of Napoleon’s reign, amid the turbulence of the War of the Sixth Coalition and his eventual abdication and exile to Elba, this volume is both a historical and artistic treasure.

Produced by François-Pierre Janet, this almanac captures a moment of transition in European history, reflecting the grandeur of Napoleon’s empire even as it teetered on the edge of collapse. Napoleon’s reign, spanning from 1804 to 1814, saw the French Empire at its zenith, encompassing vast swaths of Europe before succumbing to the pressures of coalition forces.



This volume contains four plates of illustration and 240 pages, along with 42 pages of prefatory material and an additional 8 pages of supplementary content. Its scarcity is underscored by its limited archival presence; **WorldCat lists just one extant copy, held at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and traced back to Roland Bonaparte’s library.**

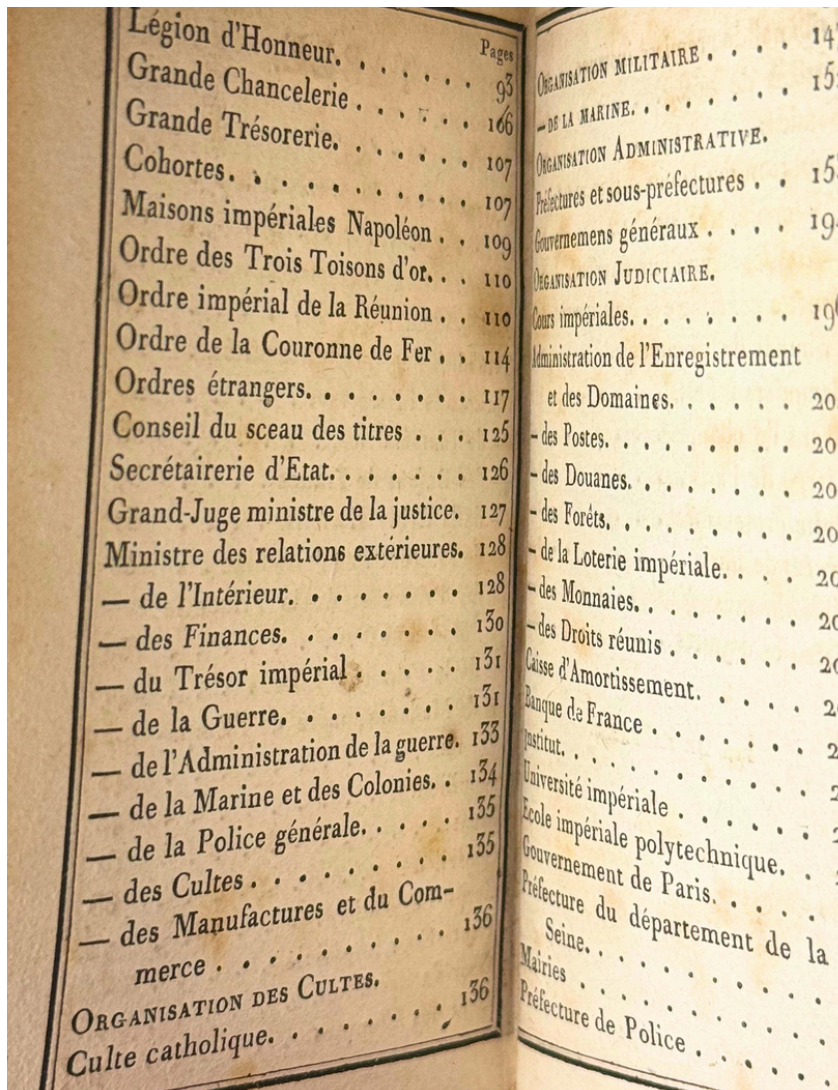
In terms of condition, this 32mo volume is remarkably well-preserved. The binding exhibits minor rubbing and light wear to the hinges and corners, consistent with its age, while the interior pages show some foxing throughout.

Despite these signs of gentle wear, the volume remains in very good condition, a testament to its careful preservation over the centuries. An extraordinary collectible, this almanac offers a tangible connection to Napoleon’s legacy, his extraordinary rise and fall, and the enduring allure of his complex and controversial story.

Offered By: Hale & Co

Rare Books

\$3800



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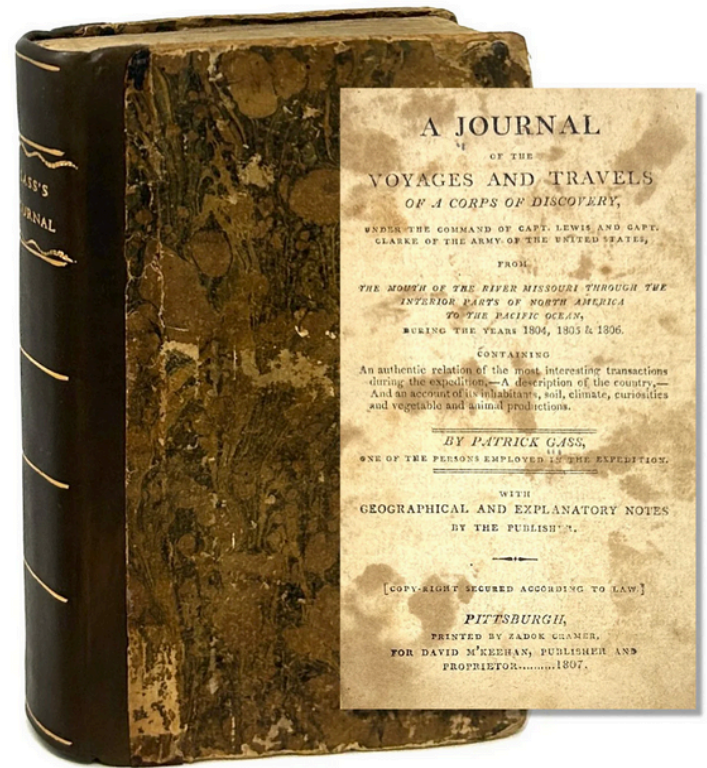
Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery

by Patrick Gass

Nearly 20 years ago, a first edition of *Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery* by Patrick Gass, from the renowned library of Frank Streeter sold at auction for \$45,600—far exceeding its estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000. Frank Streeter, a prominent collector of exploration literature, assembled an extraordinary library focused on pivotal works of discovery and navigation, making this sale a testament to the book's historical and bibliographic significance.

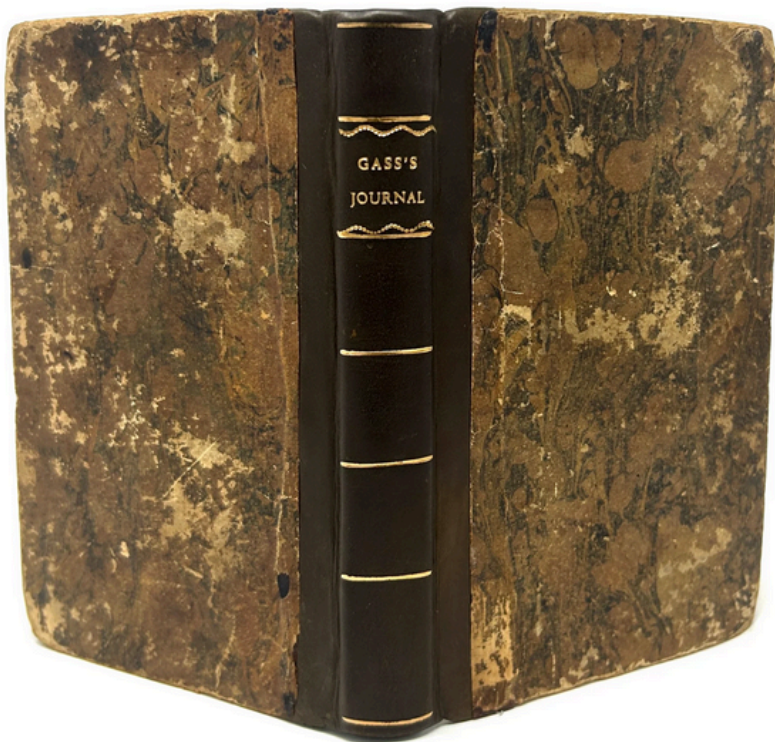
This earliest published firsthand account of the Lewis and Clark expedition, predating the official report by seven years, cemented Patrick Gass's legacy as one of the most notable members of the Corps of Discovery. His critical role as sergeant, frequent mentions in the journals of Lewis and Clark, and distinction as the first to publish an account of the expedition, contributed to his enduring recognition. Gass also coined the term "Corps of Discovery," now synonymous with the historic journey. Widely regarded as "one of the essential books for an Americana collection" (Streeter), this work remains a cornerstone of early American exploration literature.

Published in Pittsburgh by Zadok Cramer for David M'Keehan in 1807, the book is bound in contemporary marbled boards with a rebacked calf spine, gilt-lettered (pp. viii, [9]-262).



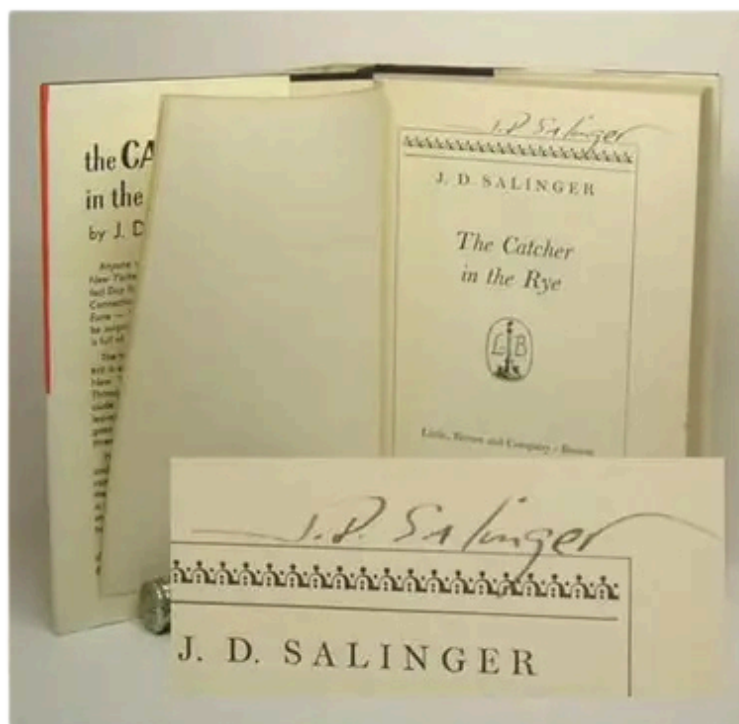
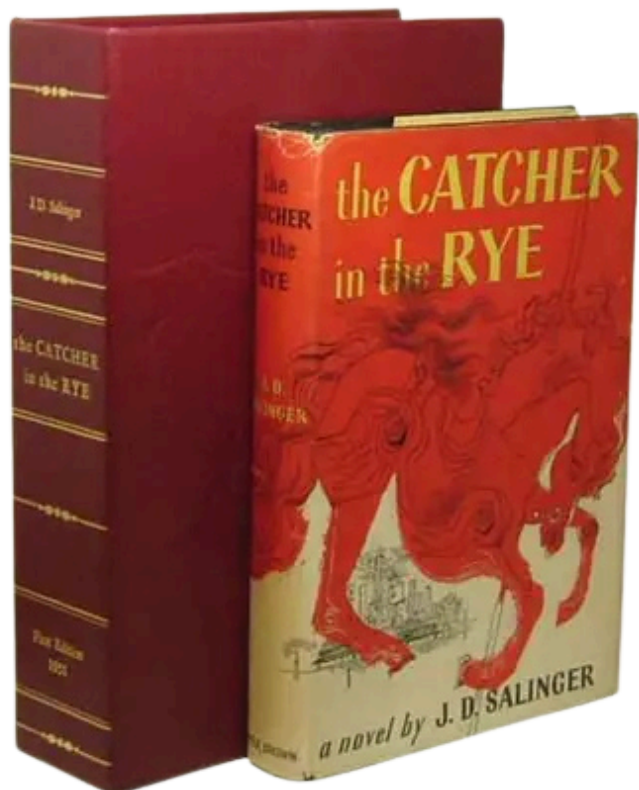
The binding is firm but shows wear, with rubbed edges and repairs to the front endpaper and title page corners. Owner inscriptions and a presumed catalog number appear on the front pastedown and page iii, respectively. Pages are toned, with occasional dampstaining and foxing, most prominent in the opening sections. Despite these flaws, this first edition remains scarce and highly collectible, offering an authentic and vivid account of one of America's most celebrated explorations.

\$12,500 Offered by Hale & Co Rare Books



A signed early printing of J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* **listed by The Book Collector's Library on Ageless Literature for \$55,000** is perhaps even more elusive than the notoriously private author himself—dodging press interviews and photo ops after the 1953 publication and subsequent success of his only novel. An Army veteran who served in WWII only a few years before chronicling the misadventures and musings of his young and disillusioned protagonist, Holden Caulfield, Salinger only published a few collections of short stories and declined every opportunity for self-promotion.

Like Caulfield, Salinger refused societal expectations and the hopes of publishers, journalists, filmmakers, and devotees of his writings. The back of the dust jacket of this signed early printing of *The Catcher in the Rye* bears nine reviews in lieu of a headshot, at the enigmatic author's behest. An exceedingly rare signed first edition, notably bearing Salinger's youthful nickname "Sonny" appeared for sale in 2022 at a rare book fair in London, with an asking price of \$228,000.



The Catcher in The Rye

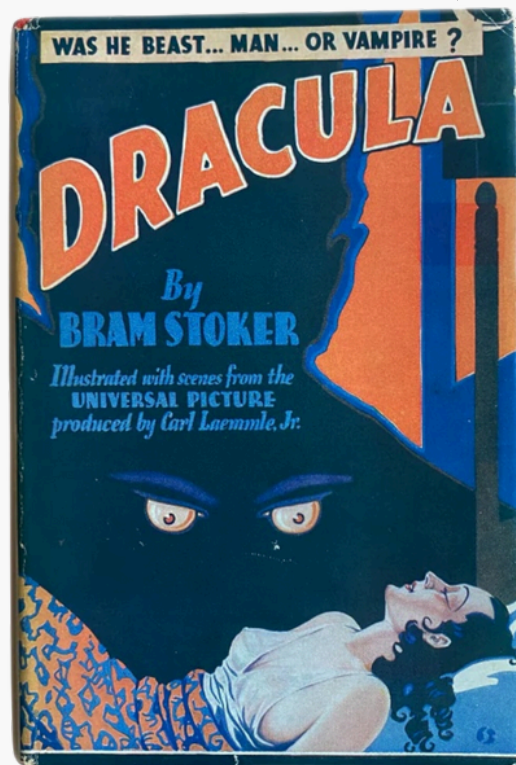
While *The Catcher in the Rye* is Salinger's only published novel, its influence on American youth, popular culture, and media cannot be overstated. The novel's overarching themes of innocence lost, the loneliness of growing up, and the emotional fortitude it requires to stand apart from society, and remain steadfast in your ideals, at great personal cost, are accessible and evergreen conversation starters that invite readers to reflect and respond to Salinger's text with their own existential questions and personal challenges. As controversial as it is celebrated, *The Catcher in the Rye* is a frequently banned book due to the profanity and sexual references peppered throughout the text, as well as Caulfield's anti-authoritarian attitude, which critics viewed as a negative influence on impressionable young readers.

Salinger's novel was infamously carried and cited by Mark David Chapman, the man who murdered British musician, John Lennon of the Beatles outside of his Manhattan apartment in 1980. Chapman was reportedly leafing through a copy of the novel when police arrived on the scene. Chapman aligned with Caulfield's obsession with "phonies" (insincere people who are more concerned with status than sincerity) as a motive for targeting Lennon who he viewed as egotistical and hypocritical. Undeniably, *The Catcher in the Rye* holds a powerful place in American history, with a cultural impact that far surpasses debates over its literary merit or moral implications. A perennial conversation starter, this iconic novel is sure to bring intrigue and depth to any rare book collection.

Ageless Monsters

Bayliss Rare Books and Ageless Literature proudly presents a 1931 first photoplay edition of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, published by Grosset and Dunlap, renowned for their photoplay editions of *King Kong* and *Frankenstein*. This exquisite volume is in fine condition and is an exceptional addition to any collection, appealing to both cinephiles and bibliophiles with a passion for horror.

This edition includes highly coveted stills from the Universal Pictures film, showcasing Bela Lugosi's iconic portrayal of *Dracula*. **Priced at \$2,763**, this barely read and highly collectible volume represents a unique opportunity that should not be overlooked.

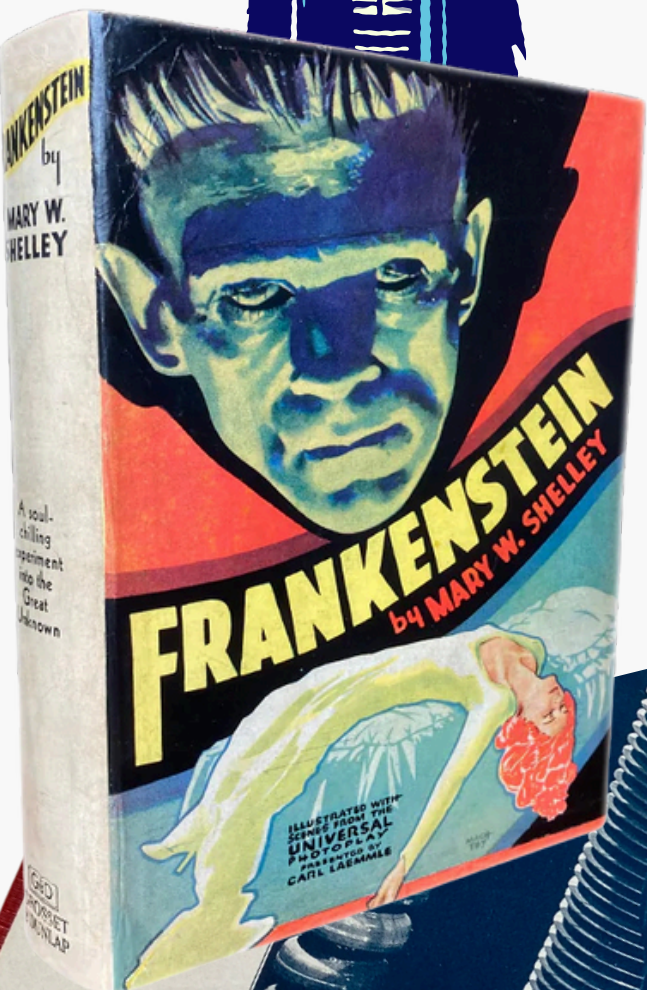


**1931 First Photoplay Edition of
Bram Stoker's Dracula
\$2,763 - Bayliss Rare Books**



An astonishingly well-preserved first photoplay edition of Mary Shelley's classic horror novel, *Frankenstein*, is near-perfect, complete with the almost-never-intact original dust jacket, which is considered one of the greatest cover designs of all time.

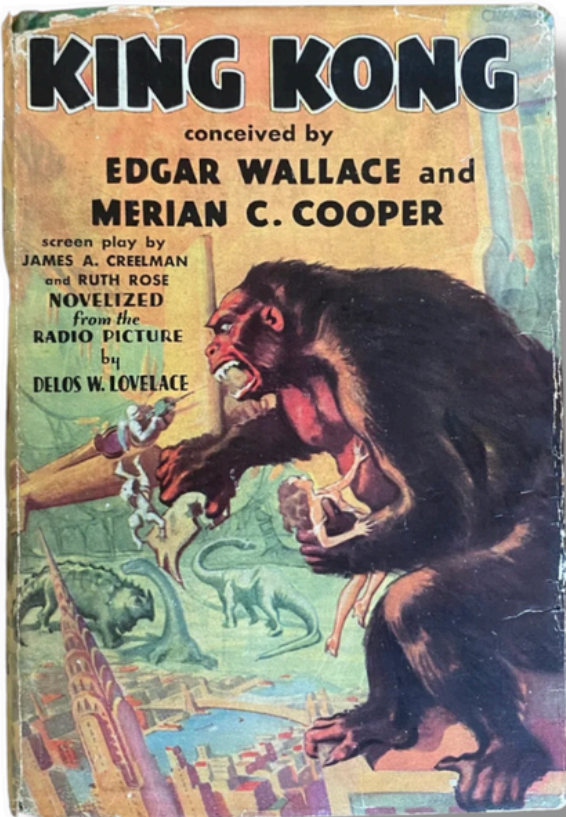
Published in 1931 by Grosset & Dunlap to coincide with the iconic 1931 Universal movie starring the legendary Boris Karloff as the titular monster, this photoplay edition of *Frankenstein* features famous scenes from the movie and is in near-fine condition, undoubtedly one of the most impressive examples to ever come to market. **Bayliss Rare Books and Ageless Literature have listed this incredible find at \$7,534.**



THE INFAMOUS

King

KONG



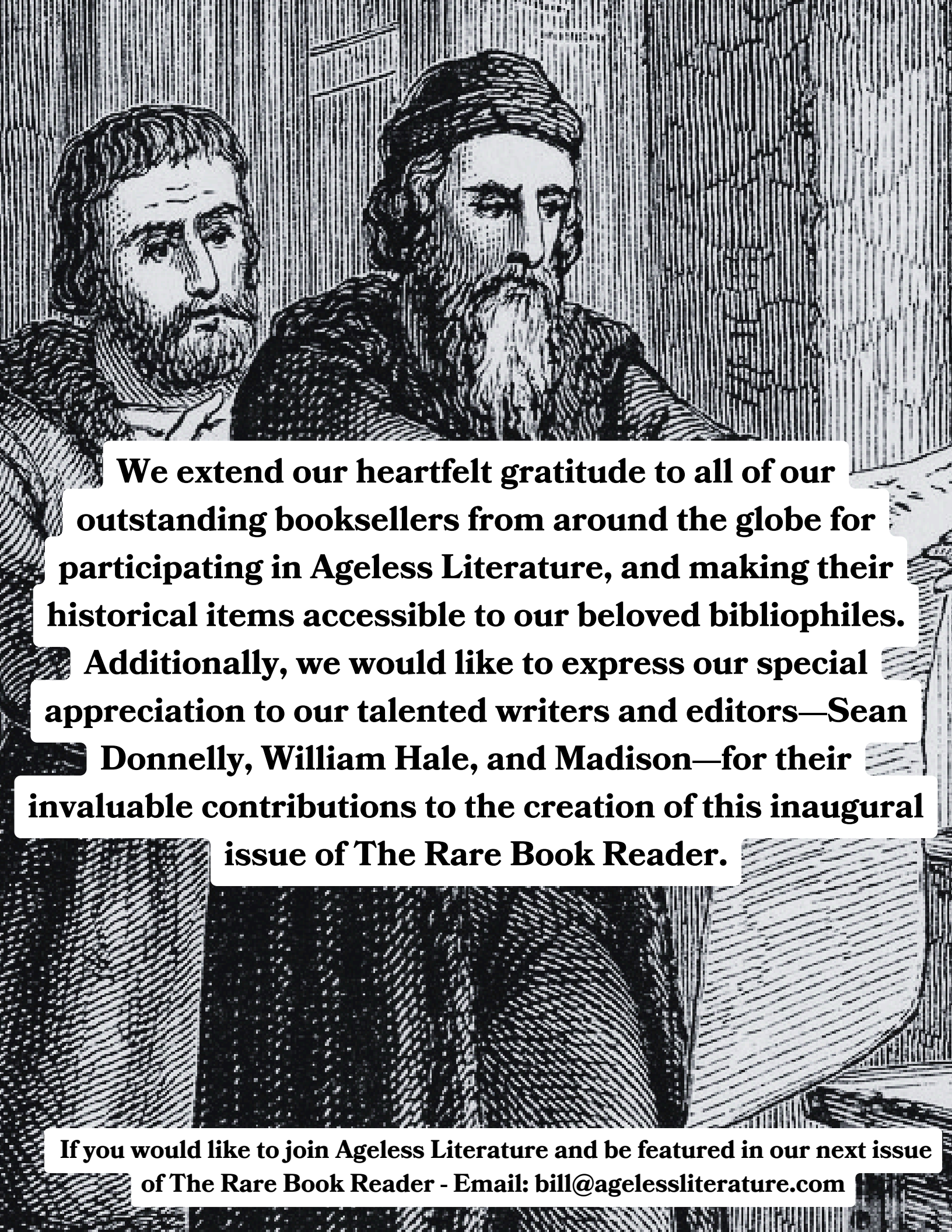
This stunning 1932 first edition, first impression of *King Kong* by Delos W. Lovelace; Edgar Wallace; Merian C. Cooper, with an extremely rare original dust jacket, is **brought to market by Bayliss Rare Books in collaboration with Ageless Literature, available for just \$10,673.**

Cooper approached Lovelace to write the novel to promote his then-upcoming film, *King Kong*. Lovelace's novel was published shortly before the release of Cooper's film, which has since earned the superlative title of greatest horror film of all time, with *King Kong's* presence permeating pop-culture.



Now enshrined in the Library of Congress' National Film Registry, the legendary 1933 film—starring Fay Wray, Robert Armstrong, and Bruce Cabot—gave rise to this thrilling novel. This pristine first photoplay edition of *King Kong*, adorned with striking stills from the cinematic masterpiece, is an absolute treasure and a true crown jewel for any rare book collection.

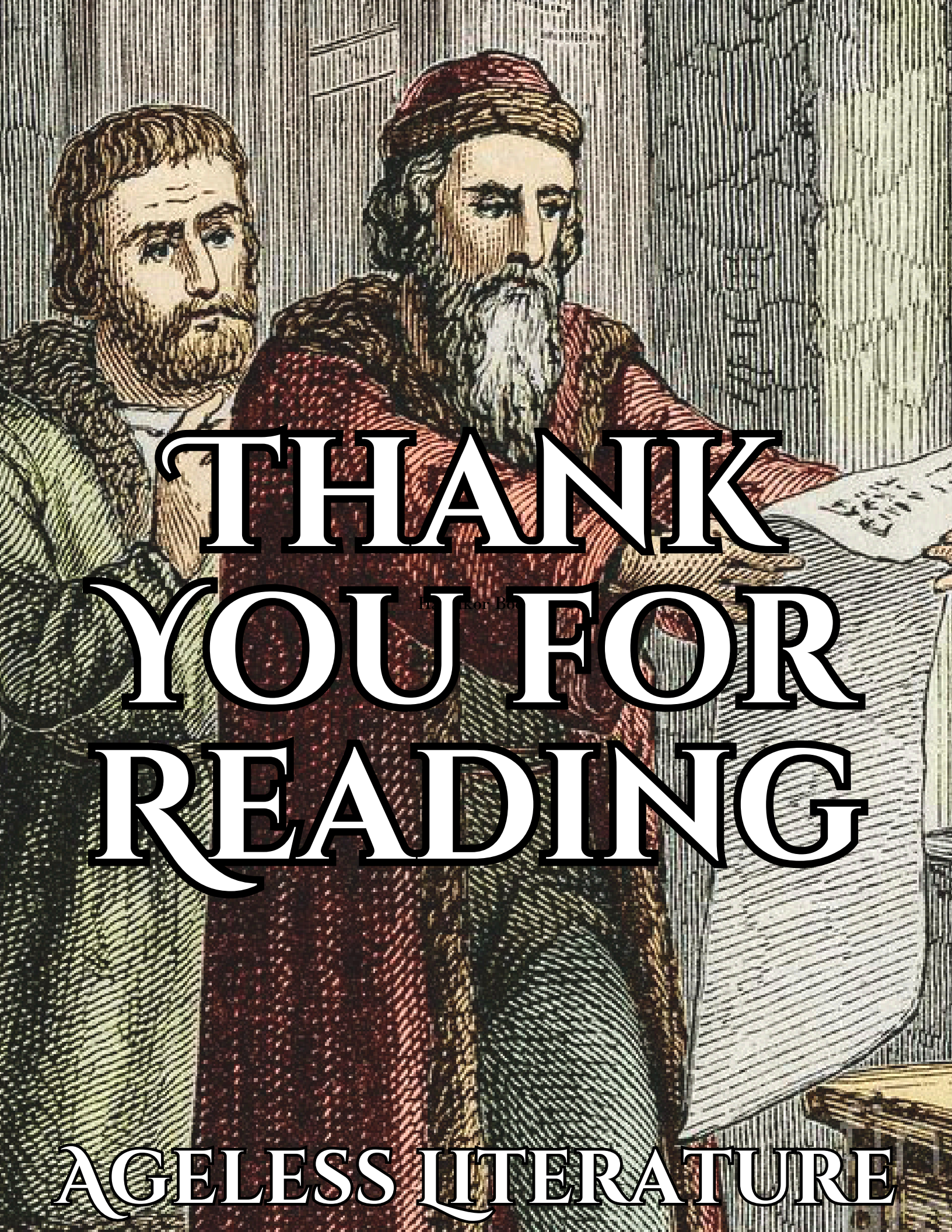




We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our outstanding booksellers from around the globe for participating in Ageless Literature, and making their historical items accessible to our beloved bibliophiles.

Additionally, we would like to express our special appreciation to our talented writers and editors—Sean Donnelly, William Hale, and Madison—for their invaluable contributions to the creation of this inaugural issue of The Rare Book Reader.

If you would like to join Ageless Literature and be featured in our next issue of The Rare Book Reader - Email: bill@agelessliterature.com



THANK
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