

Michael Pyron, Bookseller, ABAA/ILAB
Fine and Antiquarian Books

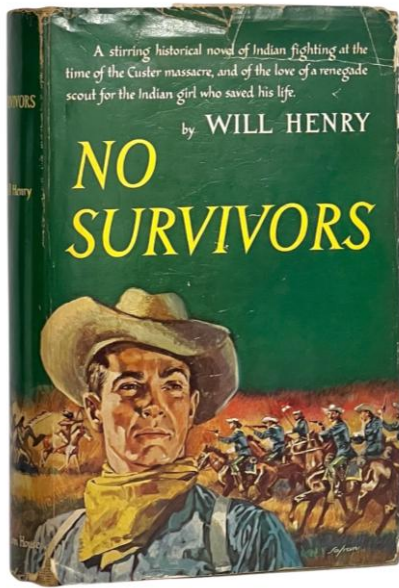
First Books – August 2026

A short list of literary first: poetry, short stories, novels

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Item #1

1) [Allen, Henry Wilson] Henry, Will. [*No Survivors*](#). New York: Random House, 1950. Octavo. [8], 344 pp. First edition. In publisher's textured paper over boards with dust jacket. Binding is a bit toned at the perimeter of the boards, spine, and edge of the textblock; the margins of the pages are very lightly toned with very occasional spotting to the contents; overly protective contemporary owner has inked his name four times: two on the preliminary pages and again at the head of the "conclusion" and at the end of the same; dust jacket is a bit edgeworn with some shallow chipping to the bottom of the spine; price intact on the front flap.

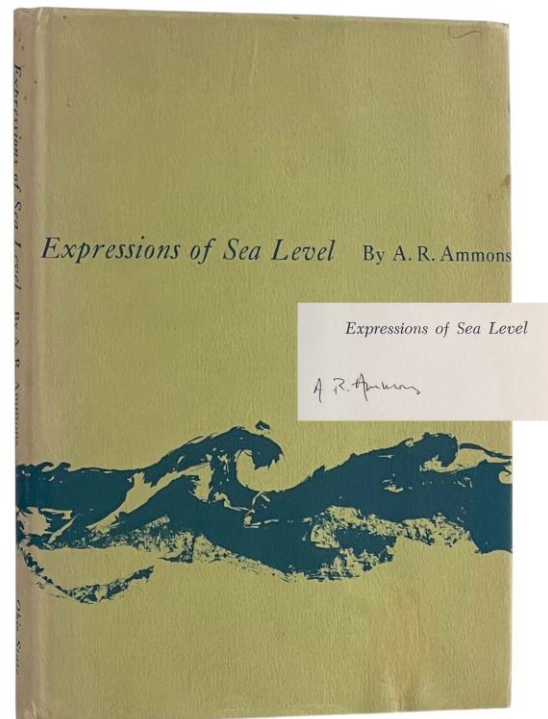
One of the great writers of that distinctly American genre, Western historical fiction, Henry Wilson Allen authored more than 50 novels. A few of his books were written under his own name, but he is far more known for his two pseudonyms, Will Henry and Clay Fisher. While Allen had been a prolific screenwriter for more than a decade before writing *No Survivors*, this is Allen's first novel and one of the best novels ever written about the Battle of Little Big Horn.

\$200

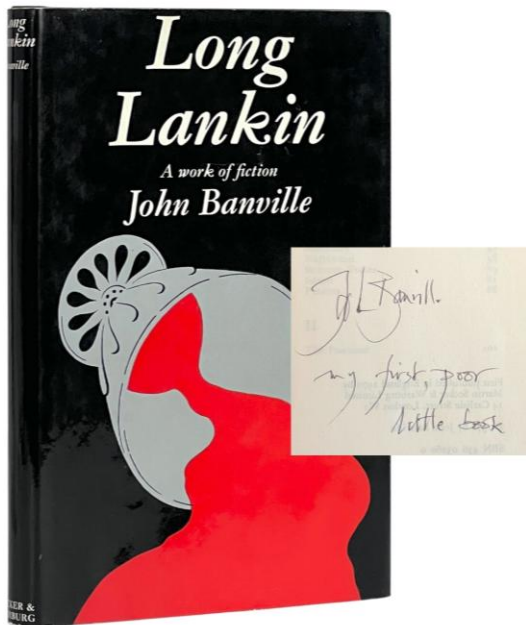
2) Ammons, A. R. [*Expressions of Sea Level*](#). Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 1963. Octavo. [10], 83 pp. First edition, first printing. Signed by Ammons on the title page. In publisher's cloth with dust jacket. Spine ends a bit softened; some sunning to the edges of the boards; contents clean; dust jacket with a closed tear at the top of the back joint as well as a faint stain to the front panel; but generally, quite a crisp jacket; price intact on the front flap.

We realize this is a stretch in a list of first book, as there were two limited editions, at the least of the first of which was a vanity press. We are making concessions for this title as it is the Ammons's first regularly published collection. It is uncommon enough without the authorial signature, but this present collection is fairly rare signed by the poet. Wright A 3.I.a.

\$450



Item #2



Item #3

3) Banville, John. [Long Lankin](#). London: Secker & Warburg, 1970. Octavo. 188, [1] pp. First edition, first printing. Signed by Banville on the title page. As issued, in textured paper over boards with dust jacket. A remarkably fresh copy; contents clean; dust jacket is quite sharp with only light edge-rubbing; price intact on the front flap.

An exceptionally good copy of Banville's first book. Under his signature he writes: "my first, poor / little book." Laid in is a ticket stub for an author event in Toronto in 2010.

\$750

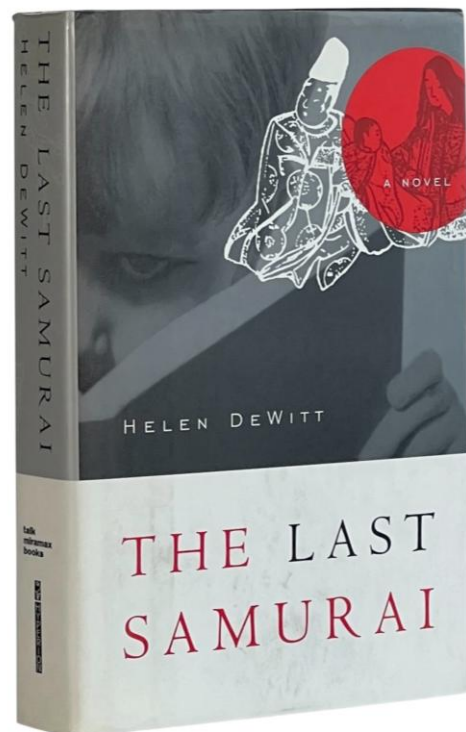
4) Bidart, Frank | note by Richard Howard. [Golden State](#). New York: George Braziller, 1973. Octavo. x, 50 pp. First edition, first printing. As issued, in golden cloth and dust jacket. A very bright copy with top corners of both boards very slightly bumped; dust jacket is fresh with price intact on the front flap.

A very nice first printing hard cover of Bidart's first book of poetry. Bidart is a critically acclaimed poet with awards including the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. This copy from the library of novelist John Barth with his name on the front free endpaper. Acclaimed writer and National Book Award-winner for his 1973 novel *Chimera*. An interesting association copy.

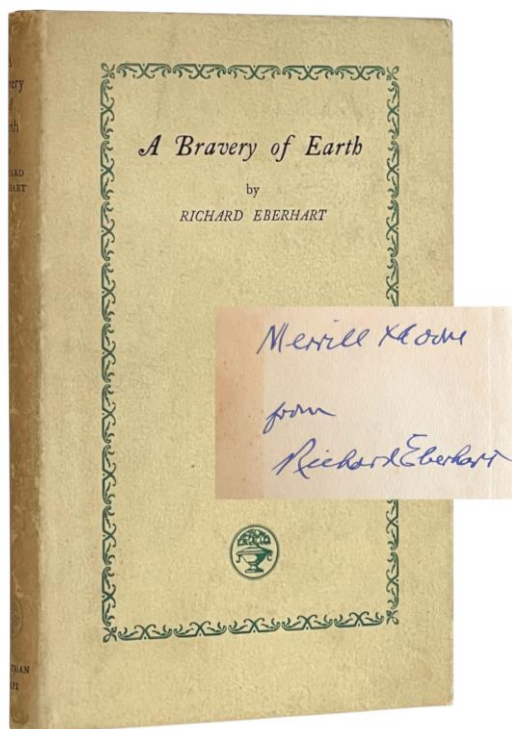
\$175

5) DeWitt, Helen. [The Last Samurai](#). New York: Talk Miramax Books | Hyperion, 2000. Octavo. viii, [2], 530 pp. First edition, first printing. As issued, in publisher's boards with dust jacket. A very nice copy with only very minor shelfwear to the book as well as a slight lean to the binding; contents clean; dust jacket has very minor soiling; price intact on the front flap. The debut novel was nominated for numerous awards upon publication and named by the *New York Times* to its list: "100 Best Books of the 21st Century."

\$125



Item #5



6) Eberhart, Richard. [*A Bravery of Earth*](#). London: Jonathan Cape, 1930. 12mo. 128 pp., errata. First edition, first printing. Signed and inscribed by Eberhart on the front free endpaper. As issued, in cloth with a dust jacket. The spine and board edges are sunned; minor offsetting to the endpaper, otherwise a clean copy; dust jacket is a trifle darkened at the spine with minor soiling and sunned in the very pattern of a bookend on the rear panel, but edges are fairly crisp all around; price intact on the front flap.

A very nice copy of Eberhart's first book, preceding the American edition, which was from the English sheets. This copy is inscribed to poet and psychiatrist Merrill Moore and dated 1937. Eberhart and Moore surely crossed paths at Harvard in the early 1930s. At the bottom of the front free endpaper is a three word note in the inner margin that we've been unable to decipher. A nice copy of Eberhart's first book inscribed by him. Wright A1a.

\$300

Item #6

edition, first printing. Signed by Gordimer on the title page. As issued, in cloth with dust jacket. A very nice copy with only trivial shelf-wear to binding; contents clean; dust jacket shows quite minor rubbing to the panels and edges, but generally, it is a remarkably nice copy; price intact on the front flap.

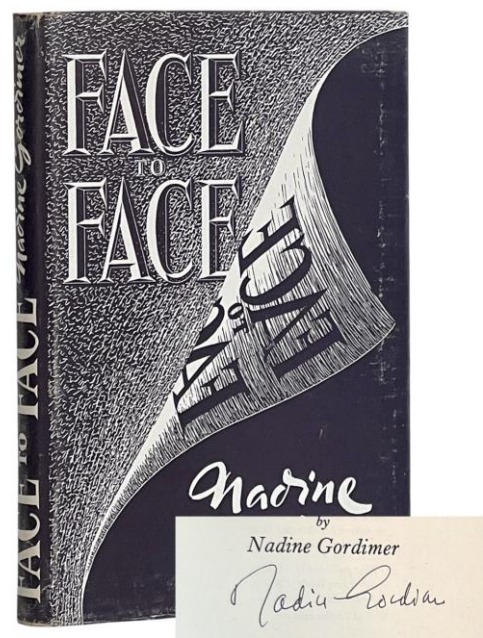
This debut collection of stories would be issued in New York in 1952 (and London in 1953) with a few additional stories. A beautiful copy of Gordimer's first published collection, here signed by Nobel laureate. Nell, G.I.

\$500

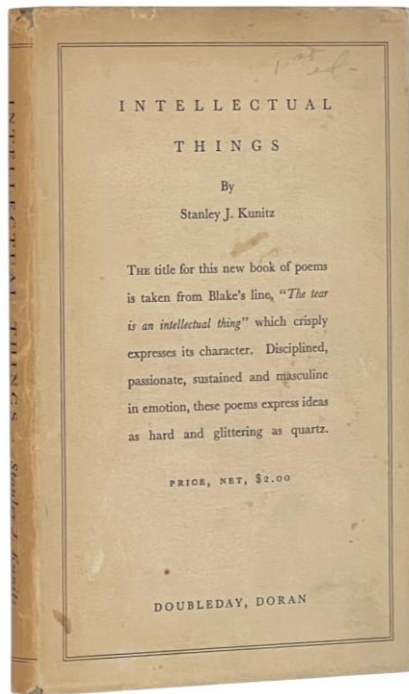
8) Gregerson, Linda. [*Fire in the Conservatory*](#). Port Townsend, WA: Dragon Gate, Inc, 1982. Octavo. 65, [2] pp. First edition, first printing. Signed by Gregerson on the title page. As issued, in publisher's cloth-backed boards with dust jacket. Bottom edges of the boards are slightly bumped, else a clean, sharp copy; dust jacket is trifle rubbed; price intact on the front flap. A nice copy of Gregerson's first book, here signed by her.

\$75

7) Gordimer, Nadine. [*Face to Face*](#). Johannesburg: Silver Leaf Books, 1949. Octavo. 164, [3] pp. First



Item #7



Item #9

label on the spine, in dust jacket. Very minor shelf-rubbing to the binding; contents are clean; dust jacket shows some darkening and soiling; some loss to the head of the spine, not touching the spine titling; price intact on the front flap.

And why not another copy of Kunitz's first book, but here, signed by the poet. The condition of the dust jacket is not quite that of the unsigned copy above, but a respectable copy nonetheless.

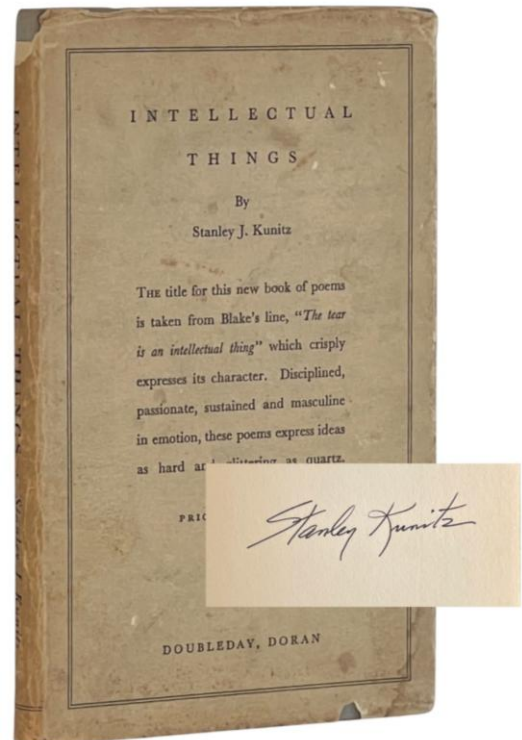
\$750

9) Kunitz, Stanley. *Intellectual Things*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran and Company, 1930. Octavo. xiii, [3], 63 pp. First edition, first printing. As issued in publisher's cloth with printed title label on the spine, in dust jacket. Very minor shelf-rubbing to the binding; some discoloration to the cloth of the rear board--foxing or toning; small penciled circles and an occasional faint pencil check mark above the titles of many of the poems, otherwise contents are clean; dust jacket is a little darkened at the spine and slightly less toned to both front and rear panels; some mottling to the verso of the rear panel reflecting the cloth of the book; price intact.

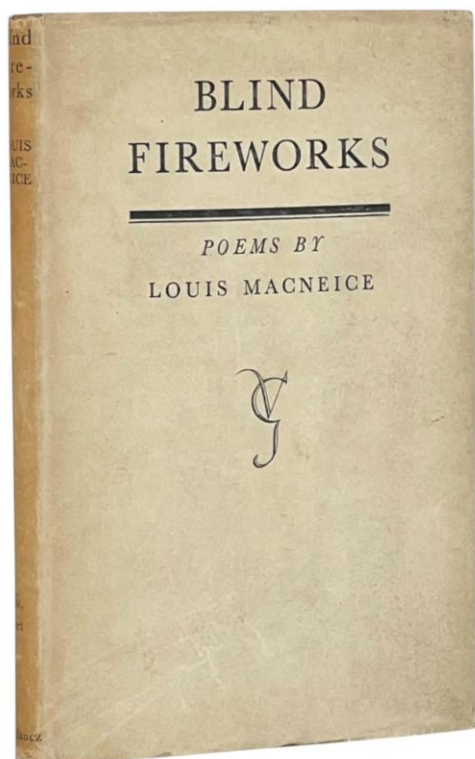
Twice appointed Poet Laureate, Kunitz was also the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, along with other recognition for his work. This is a very nice copy of Kunitz's first book.

\$500

10) Kunitz, Stanley. *Intellectual Things*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran and Company, 1930. Octavo. xiii, [3], 63 pp. First edition, first printing. Signed by Kunitz on the title page. As issued in publisher's cloth with printed title



Item #10



Item #11

11) MacNeice, Louis. [Blind Fireworks](#). London: Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1929. 12mo. 80 pp. First edition, first printing. In publisher's cream cloth with printed paper title label as well as dust jacket. Light foxing to the cream cloth; offsetting to the endpaper and the title page from a news clipping that is laid in; contents clean; dust jacket is a bit browned at the spine and with minor shelfwear, but generally well preserved.

A very nice copy of MacNeice's first published work. It was issued in an edition of only 1000 copies and it appears in two different bindings. Armitage and Clark only note it in black cloth with no mention of the cream cloth. Hayward, in *English Poetry: An Illustrated Catalogue of First and Early Edition Exhibited in 1947 at 7 Albemarle Street, London*, described MacNeice's copy lent for the exhibition as being in "cream canvas boards." Despite some assertions by other sellers, we're uncertain as to the priority of the bindings, but Haywards catalogue suggests if this cream canvas binding isn't the first issue, it was at least MacNeice's preferred binding. This copy with a contemporary note mounted on the front pastedown "In return for several meals & much conversation. Geoffrey." The laid in clipping is a review of MacNeice's *Ten Burnt*

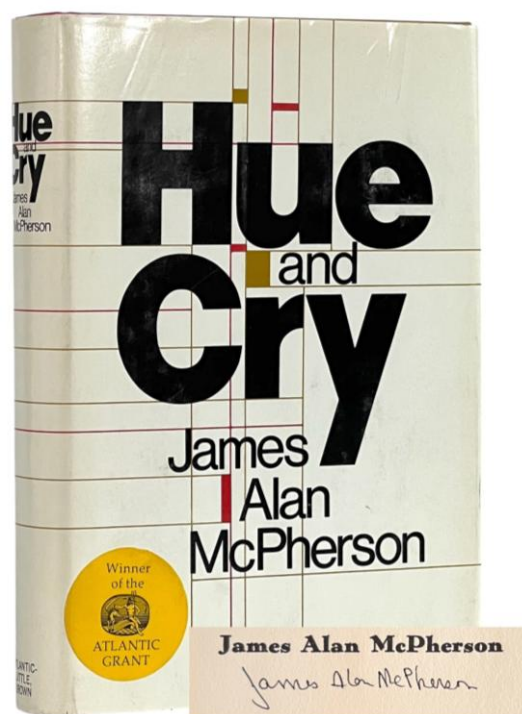
Offerings by Geoffrey Grigson. It is unclear if this note is by Grigson or another Geoffrey. Armitage and Clark A1; Hayward 342.

\$1,000

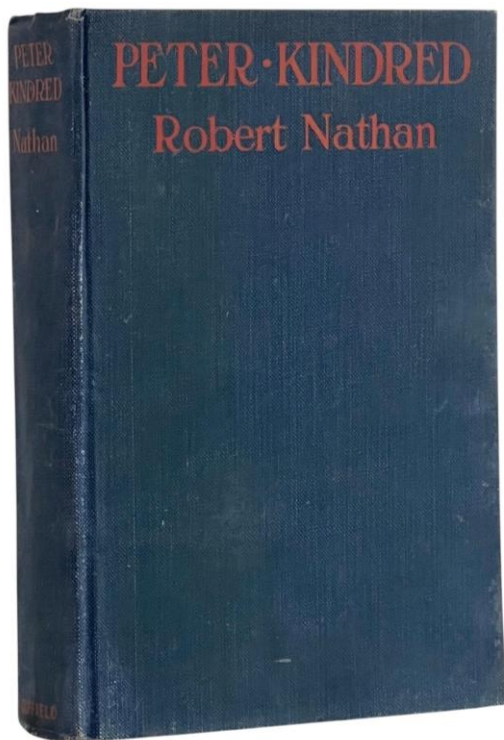
12) McPherson, James Alan. [Hue and Cry](#). Boston: Atlantic Monthly Press | Little, Brown and Company, 1969. Octavo. [10], 275 pp. First edition, first printing. Signed by McPherson on the title page. As issued, in cloth-backed boards with dust jacket. An incredibly bright copy; clean throughout; dust jacket is sharp with only very minor shelf-rubbing; "Atlantic Grant" sticker on the front flap; price intact.

An exceptional copy of McPherson's first collection of stories. He would go on to win the Pulitzer Prize for *Elbow Room* and would be the recipient of a MacArthur and Guggenheim Fellowship.

\$400



Item #12



Item #13

13) Nathan, Robert. *Peter Kindred*. New York: Duffield and Company, 1919 [1920]. Octavo. [6], 362 pp. First edition, first printing. As issued, in full cloth, lacking the dust jacket. Binding shows minor wear and soiling; spine a little dulled; front hinge is a trifle loose; minor silverfishing to the bottom edge of the textblock; expected age-toning to the contents, otherwise, contents are clean.

A reasonable copy of Nathan's first novel. While dated 1919 on the title page, the book was actually issued in January 1920. This first printing was followed by a second printing dated 1920. Laurence A1.a.

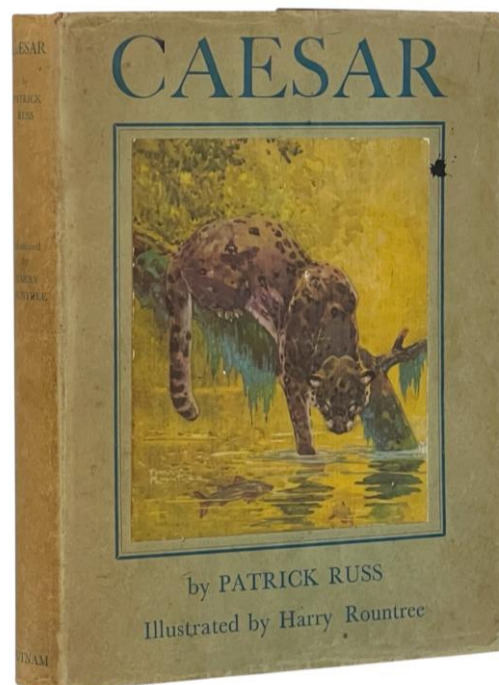
\$100

creeps into the margin of a relatively few pages; dust jacket is toned with some soiling; price intact on the front flap.

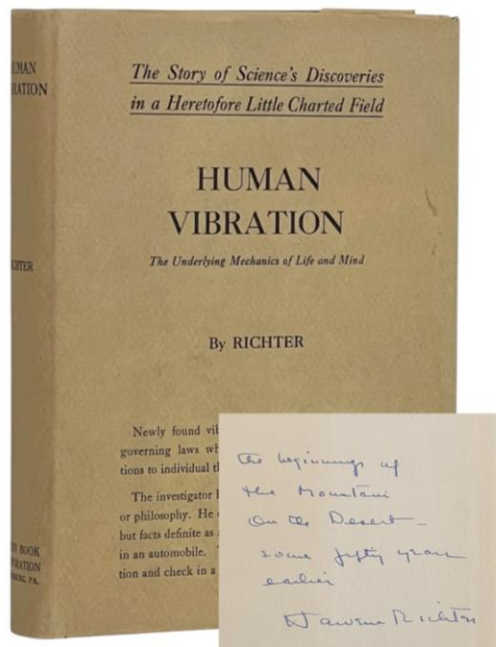
A wonderful copy of the first published work of Russ, written when he was a child and published when he was a teen. After three early works published by Russ, he would change his name to Patrick O'Brian by which he is now known as the prolific author and nautical historical fiction and a translator of some note.

\$300

14) [O'Brian, Patrick] Richard Patrick Russ | illustrated by Harry Rountree. *Caesar: The Life Story of a Panda Leopard*. London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1930. Large octavo. vii, [1], 87, [1] pp., frontis, plates. First edition. In publisher's cloth with dust jacket. Small areas at the head and tail of the spine where the cloth is bleached, otherwise, the binding is very bright and clean; foxing to the textblock edges that barely



Item #14



Item #15

15) Richter, Conrad. [*Human Vibration: The Mechanics of Life and Mind*](#). Harrisburg, PA: Handy Book Corporation, 1925. Large octavo. 216, [1] pp. First edition, first printing. As issued, in full cloth with dust jacket. An exceptionally sharp copy; minor and even toning the contents else clean throughout; dust jacket has only touches of edgewear and a closed tear to the bottom edge of the rear panel; very sharp.

Why is this on the list, being the second published work by Richter? Because it is strange and we like it! And it is a first work of philosophical nonfiction. Here with a nice inscription by Richter's daughter Harvena Richter: "The beginnings of *The Mountain on the Desert*, some fifty (?) years earlier." Either we are misreading "fifty" or it is an exaggeration as *The Mountain on the Desert* was published 30 years later. Perhaps it is that the undated inscription was written in 1975. This copy accompanied a second edition which Harvena inscribed to John and Lynn Light in the same pale blue ink. We presume they were offered as a pair. We have seen other

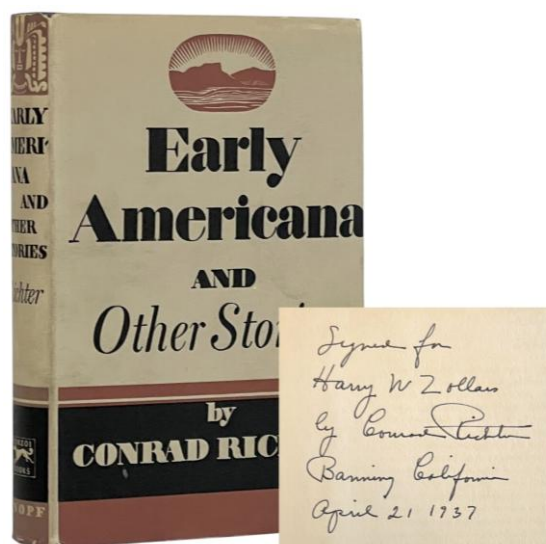
books by Richter inscribed to the Lights and suppose they were friends of the Richters. An interesting philosophical inquiry into energy and harmony which Richter, as Harvena's inscription suggests, would expand upon in *The Mountain on the Desert* (1955). First editions of the book are quite uncommon in commerce and the jacket is exceptionally rare.

\$350

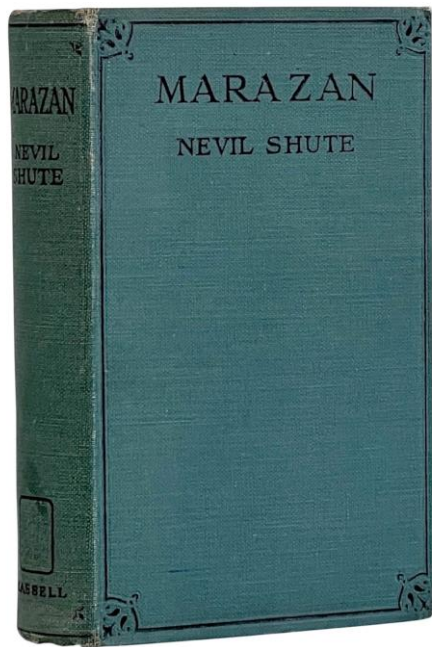
16) Richter, Conrad | designed by W. A. Dwiggins. [*Early Americana and Other Stories*](#). New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1936. Octavo. [2], vi, [2], 322, [2] pp. First edition, first printing. Signed and inscribed by Richter on the front free endpaper. In the publisher's purple cloth variant with silver stamping and in dust jacket. Binding is quite bright with a little bit of sunning to the top edges of the boards and in the front joint; corners and spine ends are just a trifle softened; dust jacket with very trivial edgewear; price intact on the front flap.

We are straining the conditions of this list yet again. Nevertheless, recognizing this as Richter's first book with Knopf (which whom he would remain throughout his career) and really the first book that had some success. This copy with an inscription by Richter to Harry W. Zollais (?) of Banning, California and dated 1937. A very nice copy. Agner 36.11.

\$350



Item #16



Item #17

17) Shute, Nevil. [*Marazan*](#). London: Cassell and Company, Ltd, 1926. Octavo. 319, [1] pp. First edition, first printing. In publisher's cloth but lacking the dust jacket. A very bright copy with only light toning to the spine and touches of rubbing to the corners and spine ends; some minor toning and one small bit of soiling else the contents are clean; one leave with a small closed tear. A solid copy of Shute's first published work. Remarkably uncommon in commerce.

\$750

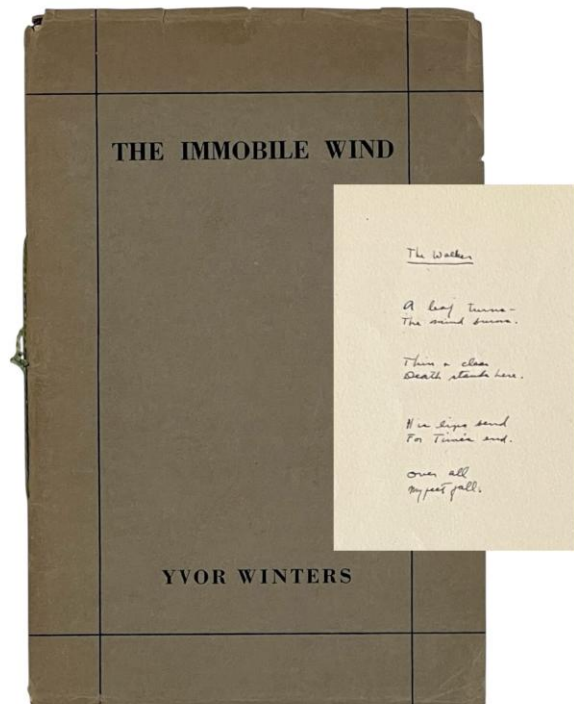
18) Taylor, Peter. [*A Long Fourth and other Stories*](#). New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1948. Octavo. x, 166 pp. First edition, first printing. As issued, in publisher's black cloth with dust jacket. An incredibly nice copy; spine gilt is a bit dulled; small blemish to the front free endpaper, otherwise contents are clean; dust jacket is a bit sunned at the spine but generally, crisp and with very little edgewear; price intact on the front flap. An uncommonly nice copy of Taylor first published book. Wright A1a.

\$125

19) Winters, Yvor. [*The Immobile Wind \[with manuscript poem\]*](#). Evanston, IL: Monroe Wheeler, 1921. Octavo. 28, [4] pp. First edition. Manuscript poem in Winters's hand on a rear blank. As issued, sewn in printed wrappers. Wrappers a trifle toned with some edgewear where they overlap the textblock including a small chip to the rear wrapper; minor toning to the text.

This copy belonged to fellow poet and friend Howard Baker with his name in ink on the verso of the front wrapper. Additionally, Winters has penned the poem, "The Walker" on the blank opposite the contents page at the rear. "The Walker" was first published in the December 1920 issue of Poetry (Vol. XVII, No. III). A rare copy of Winters's first published work of poetry. Powell, *Yvor Winters*, 17.

\$600



Item #19



Item #20

20) Yeats, W. B. *The Wanderings of Oisín: Dramatic Sketches, Ballads, & Lyrics*. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1892. Small octavo. vi, 156 pp., frontis. Second issue. In publisher's cloth-over-boards backed in paper vellum. spine is dulled and discolored; binding is a bit soiled with a spot on the rear boards; rubbed at the extremities; contents are evenly toned and but for a couple spots of discoloration, generally clean.

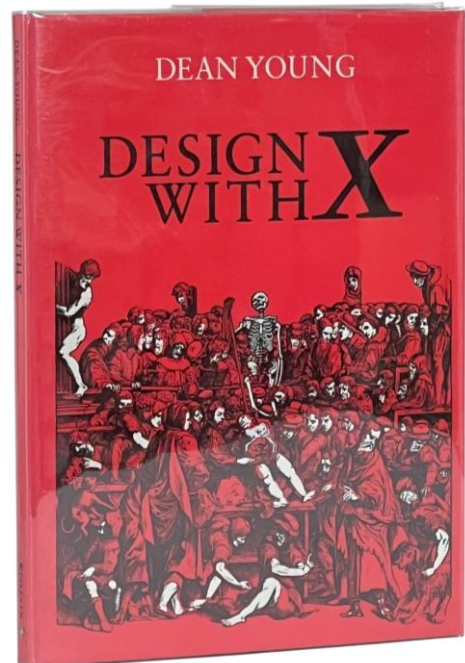
Among Yeats's earliest publications, this title is Yeats's first collection of poetry. It was originally issued in 1889. This second issue consists of the original sheets with a canceled title page and added frontispiece. Wade in his bibliography notes that only about 100 copies of this second issue were made, an assertion that is corroborated in a letter by Yeats to John O'Leary where he writes: "I want to take the remaining 100 copies out of their hands and Fisher Unwin to sell them which he will do with ease" (*Letters*, p. 198). This second issue is far more rare than the first. Wade 3.

\$1,000

with dust jacket. An extremely bright copy in a similarly sharp jacket but only trivial sunning to the spine; price intact on the front flap. A scarce, signed copy of Young's first book. He is an acclaimed and decorated poet who has been awarded a number of fellowship and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2005.

\$425

21) Young, Dean. *Design with X*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1988. Octavo. viii, 55, [1] pp. First edition. Signed by Young on the title page. In publisher's cloth



Item #21