A Selection of

Fine Illustrated Books

Christmas

2009
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We plan to exhibit at the following book fairs:

Los Angeles Antiquarian Book Fair, 2010 : New York Antiquarian Book Fair, 2010
London Antiquarian Book Fair, 2010 : ILAB Book Fair 2010, Italy

This catalogue was prepared by:

David Brass, Caroline Brass, Stephen J. Gertz and Dustin S. Jack
"Fore!" A Hole In One: The Best Copy Of Briggs' Classic To Come To Market In Decades


Briggs' classic, affectionate satire of the game he loved is scarce in any condition, and it is extraordinarily rare to find a copy so fresh, clean, and complete with the box; copies don't come any better and this is the best copy we've seen in decades.

First Trade Edition With Twenty Color Plates by Detmold


First trade edition. Quarto. Twenty mounted color plates. Publisher's white cloth illustrated in color. A bit of soiling to boards and toning to spine. Otherwise an internally fresh and clean, very good copy.

After the tragic death of his twin brother and collaborator, Edward Detmold concentrated his talents on books, primarily of flowers and animals: Detmold's finest plates are those produced for *The Fables of Aesop* (1909), *The Life of the Bee* (1911), and *Hours of Gladness* (1912), the latter with texts after Maurice Maeterlinck, the Belgian poet, naturalist, and mystic...

"So Exquisite as to Make One Hold One's Breath"


First trade edition. Large quarto. Ten mounted color plates. Original white cloth pictorially stamped in pale green and gilt. A very fine copy in the original box (one edge of box lid missing).

“Nothing more purely beautiful has ever come even from Dulac’s fairy brush than the picture of Badoura in the arms of Camaralzaman against a background so exquisite as to make one hold one’s breath” (from the review in The Outlook, November 15, 1913, Supplement XIII, quoted in Hughey).
First Trade Edition
[DULAC, Edmund, illustrator]. KHAYYAM, Omar. FITZGERALD, Edward (trans.). Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam...
London: Hodder and Stoughton, [1909].


In his autobiography, George Doran, the book’s American publisher, noted “In point of excellence of art, popularity, distinction and profit the crowning achievement... was the publication of the Fitzgerald version of the Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám illustrated by Edmund Dulac. The book was a joy and a treasure. Its public acceptance was immediate and great.”

First Edition of Kate Greenaway’s “Mother Goose” in the Extremely Rare Dust Jacket
[GREENAWAY, Kate, illustrator]. Mother Goose or the Old Nursery Rhymes. Illustrated by Kate Greenaway. Engraved and printed by Edmund Evans. London: George Routledge and Sons, [n.d., 1881].


Kate’s publishers continued to exploit her popularity, and at the end of 1884 several gift books had appeared for the Christmas trade. Evans and Routledge chose a selection of line blocks from previous successes to make the Kate Greenaway Painting Book, and printed 40,000 copies, despite which, few of this, the first edition in wrappers, have survived in collectable condition.
With Greenaway Designed Cover
In the Scarce Red Cloth Variant


New [second] edition, with Kate Greenaway designed cover not present in the first edition. Small octavo. With additional colored title page and frontispiece, and four black and white plates. Original red pictorial cloth with gilt-stamped Kate Greenaway illustration, the scarce variant. A near fine copy.

One of the rarer Kate Greenaway-illustrated titles, rarer still in this second edition. "As far as I can remember, my father and I lived in a cottage in the parish of Llangovan, near the market town of Rhydcwm, in South Wales. Our house was not inaptly named Turnaside, for it stood alone in a wet, springy lane, where a passerby was quite a sight to stare at..." (Beginning of Chapter 1.)

One of the Books That Relieved John Ruskin’s Depression
Rare in Dust Jacket


"...By Christmas, Ruskin had recovered and was ready to advise her. Although he was still depressed by his uncontrollable health... his depression was somewhat relieved by Kate's latest books, which rekindled his interest in her ability to depict children and reminded him of his departed beloved [little Rose La Touche].

The Finest Copy to Come to Market in Thirty-Five Years


Only three copies of this, the limited edition, have come to auction within the last thirty-five years, one of which was rebacked, the other two, soiled. Thirty classic nursery rhymes, including *Mary Had a Little Lamb, Little Jack Horner, Ding Dong Bell, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, are beautifully color-illustrated with gentle, immensely charming grace by Le Mair.
First Trade Edition of Kay Nielsen’s “Hansel and Gretel”
[NIELSEN, Kay, illustrator]. GRIMM, [Jacob and Wilhelm].
Hansel and Gretel and Other Stories by the Brothers Grimm. New
York: George H. Doran Company, [n.d., 1925].

First American trade edition (there was no English trade edition).
Large quarto. Twelve mounted color plates. Ten black and white
plates. Original red cloth. Front cover with gold label pictorially
stamped in black and red. Spine decoratively stamped and lettered
in gilt. Red and white decorative endpapers. A near fine copy.

In an attempt to reinvigorate the market for gift books after the
war, Hodder & Stoughton resumed the publishing of Kay Nielsen’s
books. In 1924 they published Hans Andersen’s Fairy Tales.
Nielsen returned to London, and in 1925 Hansel and Gretel,
appeared with twelve color plates.

Arthur Rackham’s ‘Old Favourites of the Nursery’
RACKHAM, Arthur, [illustrator]. The Arthur Rackham Fairy

Limited to 460 numbered copies, signed by the artist. Octavo.
Eight full-page color plates and sixty drawings in black and white.
Original vellum over boards, ruled and lettered in gilt on front
cover and spine. A very fine copy in the original gray cardboard
slipcase with matching limitation number.

"...with the Hans Andersen maybe mentioned The Arthur Rackham
Fairy Book, undertaken in the same propitious mood and
published in the following year. The illustrations were all new,
though it was not the first time, as Rackham admitted in his
preface, that he had illustrated several of these old favourites of the
nursery, 'in the thirty years and more that my work has led me
through enchanted lands'.

The "Little" Rackham Peter Pan
[RACKHAM, Arthur, illustrator]. BARRIE, J.M. Peter Pan in
Kensington Gardens... London: Hodder and Stoughton, [1910].

First edition in this format. Small quarto. Twenty-four color plates
with titled tissue-guards and four line drawings in the text.
Original dark green cloth, front cover pictorially gilt decorated
with 'Peter Playing his Pipes’, spine lettered in gilt. Pictorial
endpapers with map of Kensington Gardens. A very fine copy in
the original publisher’s box with color printed label duplicating the
color plate opposite page 52.

Rackham’s Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens was originally issued
in 1906 and contained fifty tipped-in color plates. This edition in
small format was published in 1910 and included twenty-four of
the original fifty color plates.
The Rackham-Illustrated Edition
"A Difficult Title To Find in Good Condition"

First edition illustrated by Rackham, published only in America. Octavo. Title page, frontispiece and two full page illustrations in rose and greenish-blue, twenty-six black and white drawings. Original tan, pictorially stamped, cloth. A remarkably fresh, clean, and exceptionally fine copy.

"The text is printed on a poor and brittle paper, so it is a difficult title to find in good condition" (Riall).

Signed Limited Edition

Limited to 410 numbered copies of which 400 copies are for sale, signed by the artist. Octavo. Four color plates and fourteen drawings in black and white (including one double-page). Original full limp vellum lettered in gilt on front cover. Top edge gilt, others uncut. Pictorial endpapers in tan and white. A near fine copy. In the original publisher’s cardboard slipcase with matching limitation number on spine, to which a prior owner has inked title and limitation information to one of the sides.

With Eight Half-Tone Plates by Arthur Rackham

First edition. Signed by Arthur Rackham on the title-page. Octavo. Eight half-tone full page plates by Rackham. Original front tan wrapper lettered in red, original spine lettered in black, last page of advertisements used as rear wrapper. Front wrapper, spine and a few leaves of text expertly and almost invisibly restored. An excellent copy of an extremely rare book and the first signed copy that we have ever seen. Housed in a cloth clamshell case.

This rare first edition has eight half-tone plates and the Newnes’ Sixpenny Series in the rear advertisements lists only fifty titles.
With Eight Half-Tone Plates by Arthur Rackham


Publisher's orange-red cloth pictorially stamped and lettered in black on front cover and spine. Spine very slightly darkened, mild wear to extremities, otherwise an excellent copy of a book that is difficult to find in any condition.

With Color Frontispiece by Arthur Rackham


First edition, with color frontispiece by Rackham. Octavo. Publisher's original cloth.

A miraculously crisp, clean, tight, partially unopened, and very fine copy.

One of the Rarest of all the Books Illustrated by Arthur Rackham


"To Arthur Rackham I tender my most sincere thanks whose magic touch, as in Peter Pan, Grimm's Faery Tales and Undine, making real all faeries and gnomes, endears all child life to grown-ups as well as to children." (Forward by Julia Ellsworth Ford).
**Pretty In Pink**


First edition, first issue, printed on pink paper. Octavo. Eight full page color plates by Arthur Rackham. Publisher’s original gilt stamped blue cloth, a color variant not noted by Latimore and Haskell, with added gilt prize supra-libros on the upper board. All edges gilt.

A particularly attractive copy with only the lightest of wear to corners, and fine.

**One of 750 Copies Signed by Arthur Rackham**


Edition de Luxe. Limited to 750 numbered copies for sale in Great Britain and Ireland, signed by the artist. Large quarto. Forty mounted color plates, and forty-five drawings in black and white. Original vellum over boards pictorially stamped and lettered in gilt. Yellow silk ties renewed. Withal, an excellent copy.

“Reprinted from the 1900 edition, with added illustrations and larger pages” (Latimore and Haskell).

**One of 750 Copies, Signed by Arthur Rackham**


The plays illustrated in this fine volume include: *The Tempest; A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Much Ado about Nothing; As You Like It; The Merchant of Venice; King Lear; Macbeth; All’s Well that Ends Well; The Taming of the Shrew; The Comedy of Errors; Measure for Measure; Twelfth Night; or, What you Will; Romeo and Juliet; Hamlet, Prince of Denmark; and Othello.*
**Rackham Rings Dickens’ Chimes**


Limited to 1500 copies signed by the artist. Small folio. Six full page illustrations and fourteen drawings in black and white. Publisher’s original pictorial buckram. A very fine copy. Housed in the publisher’s illustrated slipcase with matching limitation number.

Introduction writer Edward Wagenknecht (1900-2004) was the last surviving great scholar bookman to be born at the end of the Victorian era. His first major biography [was] *The Man Charles Dickens: A Victorian Portrait* (1929). Two years later Wagenknecht successfully persuaded Arthur Rackham to illustrate Dickens’s Christmas tale *The Chimes* for the Limited Editions Club.

**Scarce Rackham in Collectible Condition**


First edition of the third book (preceded by *The Dolly Dialogues* and *The Zankiwank and the Bletherwitch*) entirely illustrated by Rackham, and scarce in collectible condition. Octavo. Twelve black and white plates, including frontispiece. Publisher’s original red cloth, gilt stamped. Backstrip very slightly dulled, otherwise an unusually bright and fresh copy.

**A Man’s Best Friend**


Edition de Luxe, limited to 175 numbered and signed by Arthur Rackham. Quarto. With four color-plates including frontispiece, and sixteen line drawings. Quarter black buckram over cream paper boards. A near fine copy.

*Where the Blue Begins* is a satire about a dog named Gissing (after the author George Gissing) who lives alone in a little house in the country, in a woodland suburb region called the Canine Estates... In this book all of the characters are dogs... Poodles, Spaniels, Chows, Beagles, Sealyham’s, Mastiffs, Dachshunds, Whippets, Borzoi’s, Airedales, Dobermann-Pinschers, Pointers and Scotties.
One of 575 Copies Signed by Arthur Rackham

One of 575 copies signed by Arthur Rackham. Octavo. Four color plates and fifteen drawings in black and white. Original limp vellum. Pictorial endpapers in green and white. A fine copy. In the original slipcase with limitation number to spine, to which a prior owner has inked title and limitation information to one of the sides.

John Ruskin (1819–1900), English author and artist, whose The King of the Golden River might be regarded as the first English fairy story for children. Though it was not published until 1851, seven years after Francis Paget’s The Hope of the Katzekopf, it was in fact written in 1841 for 12-year-old Effie Gray, whom he later married.

Edition de Luxe, Signed by Arthur Rackham

Edition de Luxe. Limited to 1,000 copies, numbered and signed by the illustrator. Large quarto. Forty color plates mounted on brown paper, with descriptive tissue guards, and thirty drawings in black and white. Original vellum over boards pictorially stamped and lettered in gilt on front cover and lettered in gilt on spine. Top edge gilt, others uncut. Original gold silk ties. Bookplate. Minimal discoloration to spine, otherwise a near fine copy.

Rackham Does Wagner

First American Trade Edition


First American trade edition. Octavo. Sixteen color plates with captioned tissue guards, including frontispiece. Seventy black and white illustrations. Publisher’s green cloth with gilt vignette and decoration. A very good copy.

One of 150 Large Paper Copies on Japon Vellum


One of 150 large-paper copies printed on Japon vellum paper. Octavo. Over 150 line drawings. Publisher’s original dark red cloth as issued with the green cloth covers of the trade edition as doublures. With an ALS, dated Oct. 8, 1896, from London bookseller P. Appleby Robson of Robson & Co. to a client offering this very fine copy.


"Funny and Ridiculous Things Happen Just as Little People Like Them to Happen"


Early in 1922 a lady by the name of Elsie Smeaton Munro approached the publisher John Lane with a set of twelve children’s stories that she had written, called *Topsy-Turvy Tales.* She was acquainted with Heath Robinson and gave the publisher to understand that she could get him to illustrate her stories.