The desire to read, or have things read, has driven people to great lengths to produce books. In 1773, the 23-year-old Goethe couldn’t get hold of a copy of Ossian in Germany, so he had it printed himself. The less well-off might painstakingly write a book out by hand so as to have a copy. In the twentieth century, we see this practice develop into the *samizdat* underground book culture of the Soviet Union. All these instances are represented here. The writers featured in this latest Short List—a Chechen jihadist, a Nantucket Quaker, an amputee poet—are as diverse as the items themselves (a call to reform the Qur’an, unpublished verse for the marriage of Catherine the Great) but all are united in the desire to create, be it to inform, to entertain, or to incite.

Schiller once wrote to Johann Cotta, his publisher, that ‘the distribution of a book is almost as difficult and important a task as its creation’. The same may be said for a bookseller’s catalogues. If you know someone who may like to receive my Short Lists, please let me know, or ask them to get in touch with me themselves.
Irish legal utopia

In this copy of Restif de la Bretonne’s utopian novel, around 24 leaves have been entirely reset (a state apparently unnoticed before), with any names changed to more ‘Irish’ versions to avoid the wrath of the censor.

Item No 18: See full description on page 26

Hymns for her?

A very attractive hymnal, both inside and out, published by a bookbinder in Kassel. One wonders if this was also bound by him.

Item No 23: See full description on page 27
By desire of the Russian Ambassador

An unrecorded playbill for a performance given in Birmingham for Catherine the Great's famous ambassador, Semyon Vorontsov.

Item No 24: See full description on page 27

Goethe's Ossian

This is the very rare edition of Ossian privately printed by Goethe (still only 23) the year before he published Werther. The engraved title-pages are Goethe's earliest piece of book design.

Item No 14: See full description on page 25

1799

1788

Early Romantic tourism

A rare pocket guide to the largest English landscape garden in Switzerland, an early Romantic tourist attraction.

Item No 09: See full description on page 25
XXII.

A noble and generous is the wave,
That broke the high and rising wave.
A noble and generous is the wave,
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.

XXIII.

The storm, the tempest, and the wave,
That broke the high and rising wave.
A noble and generous is the wave,
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.

XXX.

The storm, the tempest, and the wave,
That broke the high and rising wave.
A noble and generous is the wave,
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.

XXXI.

A noble and generous is the wave,
That broke the high and rising wave.
A noble and generous is the wave,
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.
That broke the high and rising wave.
Death Row journalism

The six-month trial following the murder of a former procureur impérial in 1817 gripped the whole of France. This Rouen news-sheet, issued the month after the verdict, continues to run with the story.

Item No 12:
See full description on page 25

The Adventures of Congo

First published in 1823, Eliza Farrar’s The Adventures of Congo in Search of his Master is an early book to feature a young black American as its hero. The first edition, by Harris in London, was a 12mo. This French translation is a much more luxurious affair.

Item No 10:
See full description on page 25
The Art of the Violin

Baillot's 'L'Art du Violon, one of the most important treatises on violin playing', was first published in 1835, with Anton's German translation appearing the same year. This laborious manuscript shows how the book circulated, perhaps in Eastern Europe, in the years after publication.

Item No 03: See full description on page 24
Psalm-o-rama
An artistic celebration of Creation published a few years before Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* changed all that.

Item No 1 1:
See full description on page 25.
1857

Opera stars (on ice)

A gala charity concert, given in aid of St Petersburg’s Association française de bienfaisance, featuring a constellation of international opera stars.

Item No 08: See full description on page 25

Mark Twain in Russia

The National Library of Russia catalogue shows over 1,000 different editions of The Prince and the Pauper, in various translations and adaptations, from the nineteenth century right through the Soviet period and beyond. The first edition in Russian is extremely rare. I could locate only the Library of Congress copy outside Russia.

Item No 22: See full description on page 27
Annie Besant's *The Riddle of Life* here receives 'oriental' treatment from a German book designer, and a patent binding.

Item No 04:

See full description on page 24.

1911 Patent binding

Annie Besant's *The Riddle of Life* receives 'oriental' treatment from a German book designer, and a patent binding.

For more, see the summary page at
This novel, dedicated to the memory of the author's mother, 'the unfortunate victim of the Russian Revolution', appears to be Shottland's only book. But who exactly was this young man in a herringbone suit?

The New York Times, in 1908, called him 'a young Russian author who has passed most of his life in England and America'. Later court cases point to financial difficulties, after which he disappears without trace.

Item No 21:
See full description on page 27

Rock in the USSR
A samizdat Russian translation of Nik Cohn's classic history of pop music, 'the first book to celebrate the language of rock 'n' roll', produced in the Soviet Union for clandestine circulation.

Item No 07:
See full description on page 25
Potemkin, Prince of Darkness...

Full Listings

The national census of 1827 revealed that over 2.7 million Jews lived in Russia, including 1.4 million in the city of St. Petersburg. The census was conducted by the government, and its findings were used to justify the need for further restrictions and regulations on Jewish life in the country.

The census revealed that the majority of Jews lived in the cities, with over 80% of the Jewish population residing in urban areas. This was a significant shift from previous censuses, which had shown a higher proportion of Jews living in rural areas.

The census also highlighted the economic disparities between Jews and non-Jews in Russia. Jews were less likely to own property, and they were more likely to work in lower-paying jobs. This was partly due to the restrictions placed on Jews by the government, which limited their access to certain professions and occupations.

In response to the census findings, the government began to implement further restrictions on Jewish life in Russia. These included restrictions on the number of Jews allowed to live in certain cities, as well as restrictions on their ability to own property and engage in certain professions.

Early Romantic tourism

In the early 19th century, Russia was a popular destination for tourists from around the world. Many of these tourists were interested in exploring the country's rich cultural heritage, including its architecture, art, and music.

One of the most famous tourists to visit Russia during this time was the painter and writer Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot. Corot visited Russia in 1837 and 1839, and his paintings of Russian landscapes and cities were highly acclaimed.

Another famous tourist was the French writer Honoré de Balzac, who visited Russia in 1837. Balzac was interested in exploring the country's culture and society, and his letters from Russia were published posthumously.

In addition to these famous tourists, many other people traveled to Russia during this time to experience its culture and beauty. The rise of tourism in Russia during the early 19th century was largely due to the country's reputation as a destination for intellectual and cultural exploration.

Praising a surgeon, single-handed

In the early 19th century, the surgeon Modest P. Toch was celebrated for his single-handed amputations. Toch was one of the few surgeons in Russia who performed amputations without the help of an assistant. His techniques were highly acclaimed, and he was known for his precision and speed.

Toch was born in St. Petersburg in 1803 and trained as a surgeon at the University of St. Petersburg. He began his career as a surgeon in St. Petersburg, and he quickly gained a reputation for his skill and accuracy.

In 1830, Toch was appointed as the surgeon to the Imperial Army, and he continued to perform single-handed amputations for the remainder of his career. Toch was highly respected by his colleagues, and he was known for his dedication to his work.

Toch's techniques were highly advanced for his time, and they were widely studied by other surgeons. Toch's work helped to establish the field of surgery as a medical specialty, and he was considered one of the pioneers in the field.

Today, Toch is remembered as one of the most skilled surgeons of the 19th century. His techniques continue to be studied and admired, and his legacy continues to inspire surgeons around the world.
Writing home

French tarts

Ishigeral utopia

When Peter became 'Great'

As a young Englishwoman, the era of Queen Victoria, and the year of the Crimean War, for those who were not British, was a dream which could not be pursued. For those who were, it was a dream which had to be pursued. For those who were not, it was a dream which had to be pursued. For those who were, it was a dream which could not be pursued.

Mazarin was dead: to begin with

Seven cameos from the novel

The British Library

Reverence so der Mazarinische Geist

Two vols (each in two parts) bound in four, 12mo (162 × 98 mm), pp. [2]; with a long跋尾 (227 × 161 mm), pp. [2]; with the British Library and Brigham Young.

Sheikh Mansur

He seems to have had a literary bent in his settings, in New Grove nor Oxford DNB.

First (and only) edition, the 'words based on Laurence Mazarin was dead: to begin with

Germany, plus a copy of the first part only at Brigham Young, via belgica.com.

Poet.

The novel was translated into English in 1681: The Extravagant

Two vols (each in two parts) bound in four, 12mo (162 × 98 mm), pp. [2]; with a long跋尾 (227 × 161 mm), pp. [2]; with the British Library and Brigham Young.

A pupil of Thomas Linley,

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