Modern First Editions

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(617) 536-4433 info@buddenbrooks.com
1 Baldwin, James. JUST ABOVE MY HEAD (New York: The Dial Press, 1979) First edition. 8vo, publisher’s maroon cloth and in the original dustjacket. 597. A very fine copy, trivial rubbing along the jacket edge.

FIRST EDITION OF THIS INFLUENTIAL NOVEL WHICH enmeshes racism with homophobia. This was the last of the author’s works to be published in his lifetime.

“...Baldwin offers us not only a fervent plea for a ‘new vocabulary,’ but a compassionate, searing vision of the way in which suffering transforms and strengthens people in a work which is his most ambitious and poetic to date” (- from the dustjacket).

$95.

The Debut Novel of Iain Banks - The Wasp Factory
“One of the Top 100 Books of the 20th Century”
By One of the “50 Greatest” British Writers

2 Banks, Iain. THE WASP FACTORY (London: Macmillan, 1984) First edition, first printing. The Author’s First Book. 8vo, publisher’s original brown cloth lettered in gilt, in the original dustjacket. 184 pp. A near as mint copy, the dustjacket and text block both pristine.

FIRST EDITION OF THIS SCARCE WORK, THE FIRST BOOK BY THE AUTHOR. Iain Banks was named in 2008 by THE TIMES to their list of “The 50 greatest British writers since 1945”. A 1997 poll of over 25,000 readers listed The Wasp Factory as one of the top 100 books of the 20th century. As an unknown writer, Banks’ success was a question and the print run on this debut novel was very small. Thus the difficulty in obtaining a true first printing of the book as here.

$350.

Signed by the Author - First Edition
Ship Fever and Other Stories - Andrea Barrett

3 Barrett, Andrea. SHIP FEVER and Other Stories (New York: W.W. Norton, 1996) First edition, SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR. 8vo, publisher’s white cloth lettered in gilt, in the original dustjacket. 254 pp. An especially fine and as nubr copy. Due to the use of white cloth and white paper for the jacket the book is rarely found this clean and bright.

SCARCE FIRST EDITION, SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR. Winner of the 1996 National Book Award. “The elegant short fictions gathered hereabout the love of science and the science of love are often set against the backdrop of the nineteenth century. Interweaving historical and fictional characters, they encompass both past and present as they negotiate the complex territory of ambition, failure, achievement, and shattered dreams.

In “Ship Fever,” the title novella, a young Canadian doctor finds himself at the center of one of history’s most tragic epidemics. In “The English Pupil,” Linnaeus, in old age, watches as the world he organized within his head slowly drifts beyond his reach. And in “The Littoral Zone,” two marine biologists wonder whether their life-altering affair finally was worth it. In the tradition of Alice Munro and William Trevor, these exquisitely rendered fictions encompass whole lives in a brief space. As they move between interior and exterior journeys, “science is transformed from hard and known fact into malleable, strange and thrilling fictional material” (Boston Globe).

$125.
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil
A Spellbinding Story of Savannah - A Fine Copy


A PHENOMENAL BESTSELLER AND A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MYSTERY SET IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA. The book was Berendt’s first, and became a The New York Times bestseller for 216 weeks following its debut and is still, to this day, the longest standing best seller of the Times. The book’s plot is based on real-life events that occurred in the 1980s and is classified as non-fiction. Because it reads like a novel (and rearranges the sequence of true events in time), it is sometimes referred to as a “non-fiction novel” or “faction”, a sub-genre popularized by Truman Capote and Norman Mailer.

“John Berendt has written a gorgeous and haunting blend of travel book and murder mystery. It is enchanting and disturbing and deeply atmospheric.” - Edmund White

$175.

Scarce in Such Fine Condition
With Ten Poems by Charles Bukowski
Maybe Tomorrow - Sparrow 54 - March 1977

5 Bukowski, Charles. MAYBE TOMORROW Sparrow 54 (Santa Barbara, CA.: Black Sparrow Press, March 1977) First edition, published as Sparrow Monthly 54. The wrappers printed in black and red with decorative border and Black Sparrow printer’s mark. 8vo, publisher’s original staple bound printed cream paper wrappers. 8 leaves inclusive of wrappers. Very fine, essentially as pristine and mint.

FIRST EDITION. SCARCE, SUCH DELICATE ITEMS ARE UNUSUAL TO FIND IN SUCH NICE CONDITION. This issue of Sparrow contains ten poems by Charles Bukowski.

$50.

Charles Bukowski in Original Wrappers
Poems Written Before Jumping Out of An 8 Story Window
A Scarce Limited First Edition - 1975

6 Bukowski, Charles. POEMS WRITTEN BEFORE JUMPING OUT OF AN 8 STORY WINDOW (Salt Lake City: Litmus Inc., 1975) Scarce, first edition with correspondence, second printing. With two reproductions of photographs of the author and two reproductions of drawings by the author. 8vo, in the original pictorial gray/blue wraps printed in black. 24 leaves, unpagedinated. A very fine copy, near as new but for trivial discoloration to the wrappers edges.

VERY SCARCE FIRST EDITION, the first issue was of only 400 copies, this issue is also considered to be very scarcel. The two photographs of Bukowski, one of which is on the front wrapper, are by Brad Darby.

$125.

Charles Bukowski’s Selected Letters - Autographed
All Three Volumes in Limited Format - With Serigraph
First Editions in Very Fine Condition and as Pristine

7 Bukowski, Charles. SCREAMS FROM THE BALCONY Selected Letters 1960-1970 [and] LIVING ON LUCK Se-
yellow and red cloth with paper spine labels artistically decorated.  
FIRST EDITIONS OF ALL THREE VOLUMES OF BUKOWSKI’S SELECTED LETTERS IN LIMITED FORMAT.  
With signature and drawing by the author with serigraph by the author and all are limited.  These titles were all very handsomely published by Black Sparrow Press and were all designed by Barbara Martin.  
$895.

Septuagenarian Stew - Charles Bukowski at 70  
A Fine Copy - Published by Black Swallow - 1990

8 Bukowski, Charles.  SEPTUAGENARIAN STEW Stories and Poems  (Santa Rosa, CA.: Black Sparrow Press, 1990)  One of 1000 copies published in hardcover, out of series.  Title-page printed in decorative black, red and gold, photo of the author by Michael Montfort.  8vo, publisher’s original hard white boards printed in black, red and gold on the upper cover, the rear with decorative device in those same covers, backed in black cloth with printed label on spine in black, red and blue.  375, [3] pp.  A fine copy, essentially as new and pristine.  
A FINE COPY OF THE LIMITED FIRST EDITION, PUBLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUTHOR’S 70TH YEAR.  The work contains nearly 100 poems and stories here first collected though many had previously appeared in periodicals.  
$195.

Charles Bukowski - First Edition - Broadside Poem  
Talking to My Mailbox - Black Sparrow Press - 1984

9 Bukowski, Charles.  TALKING TO MY MAILBOX  (Santa Rosa, CA.: Black Sparrow Press, 1984)  A single poem printed as Broadsheet/Flyer No. 13.  The text printed within geometric design in shades of peach, brown, red and black, and with Black Swallow device at the foot  15 by 10 inches, peach wove paper printed on one side only, now folded in fours.  A very fine, pristine copy.  
$85.

Charles Bukowski - A Bibliography of the Primary Works  
In the Fine Deluxe Limited Binding with Poem

10 [Bukowski, Charles]; Krumhansl, Aaron.  A DESCRIPTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE PRIMARY PUBLICA-
TIONS OF CHARLES BUKOWSKI  (Santa Rosa, CA.: Black Sparrow Press, 1999) First edition, LIMITED EDITION, this being one of 376 copies in Deluxe Binding by Earle Gray and containing a previously unpublished broadside poem, hand-numbered. Extensively illustrated in black and white. The broadside poem printed on fine gray paper in blue, red and black. 8vo, in the original Deluxe gray boards designed and executed by Earle Gray, the upper board lettered and geometrically decorated in black, blue, green and red, the rear board decorated in black and red, backed in patterned aqua silk, the spine with paper label printed in red, blue, green and black, red endpapers. 204, [1] pp. and printed broadside poem. A fine copy, one small bump to the bottom edge of the rear board otherwise completely as new and mint.

FIRST EDITION AND THE DELUXE LIMITED EDITION of this mandatory bibliography for Bukowski and “Beat” collectors. The fine production was designed by Barbara Martin for Black Sparrow. $295.

Capote’s First Book Other Voices, Other Rooms
A Noteworthy Work of Southern Youth

11 Capote, Truman. OTHER VOICES OTHER ROOMS. (New York: Random House, 1948) First Edition. 8vo, publisher’s original cloth and in the original dustjacket. A fine copy, save for some very slight browning in the rear inner gutter, in near fine fresh d/j that is a bit rubbed at the top and base of the spine.

THE AUTHOR’S FIRST PUBLISHED BOOK, this being the first issue with the reclining Capote on the rear dust jacket panel, with the Marguerite Young blurb. It is written in the Southern Gothic style and is notable for its atmosphere of isolation and decadence. It is considered semi-autobiographical and was also noteworthy due to its risqué content and even the erotically charged photograph of the author on the jacket.

$550.

The Short Stories of Michael Chabon
First Edition - A Model World - A Pristine Copy


FIRST EDITION. Michael Chabon has been called the most celebrated writer of his generation. This collection of stories followed up his first novel, THE MYSTERIES OF PITTSBURGH and preceded by four years his massive success with WONDER BOYS.

$75.

Who-Done-It, Love Story, and Gripping Homage to 40’s Noir
The Yiddish Policemen’s Union - Michael Chabon


FIRST EDITION, this is Chabon’s detective story which takes place in an alternate universe in which Alaska had been designated as a Jewish settlement at the end of World War II. At once a who-done-it, love story, and gripping homage to 40’s noir. It is a winner of the Hugo, Locus and Nebula Awards.

$45.
John Cheever - His First Novel - 1957
First Edition - The Wapshot Chronicles

14 Cheever, John. THE WAPSHOT CHRONICLES (New York: Harpers and Brothers, 1957) First Edition. 8vo, publisher’s original green boards backed in black cloth, the spine lettered in yellow and red, in the scarce original dustjacket. 307 pp. The book in fine condition, the jacket well preserved and attractive with only a bit of general mellowing and a very light evidence of use. Original price still shows on dustjacket flap.

FIRST EDITION OF CHEEVER’S DEBUT NOVEL, and only his third book after two collections of short stories. The novel was quick to win acclaim by critics and fellow writers such as Saul Bellow and Robert Penn Warren. It won the 1958 National Book Award. It is a somewhat autobiographical novel about an eccentric family that lives in a Massachusetts fishing village.

$295.

Signed by David Anthony Durham
Walk Through Darkness - First Printing


WALK THROUGH DARKNESS is a provocative meditation on racial identity, freedom and equality. It is the story of a fugitive slave in Antebellum America, who must run a terrifying gauntlet, eluding the many who would re-enslave him while learning to trust the few who dare to aid him on his quest.

$85.

Baptism of Desire - Louise Erdrich
Poems of the Native American Renaissance

16 Erdrich, Louise. BAPTISM OF DESIRE. Poems (New York: Harper and Row, 1989) First edition, first printing. 8vo, publisher’s original sea green boards backed in blue cloth, the spine gilt lettered, gilt rule on upper board. In the original dustjacket. 78pp. A pristine, very fine copy in a fine, clean and fresh dustjacket, as mint.

THE AUTHOR’S SECOND BOOK OF POETRY. Erdrich is widely acclaimed as one of the most significant writers of the second wave of what critic Kenneth Lincoln has called the Native American Renaissance.

$35.

Signed by the Author - Louise Erdrich
The Bingo Palace - Further North Dakota Stories


SIGNED FIRST EDITION. THE BINGO PALACE continues the series begun with LOVE MEDICINE. It also shares with the author’s best works in its brilliant portrayal of contemporary Native American and Midwestern life. THE BINGO PALACE focuses on June Kashpah’s illegitimate son, Lipsha Morrissey.

$100.
Signed by the Author - Louise Erdrich

Blue Jay’s Dance - A Poignant Year of New Motherhood


SIGNED FIRST EDITION OF LOUISE ERDRICH’S FIRST MAJOR WORK OF NONFICTION. During the period in which Erdrich wrote seven critically acclaimed and best-selling stories she also gave birth to three children and was raising six. THE BLUE JAY’S DANCE poignantly and in lyrical prose follows the author through one year, beginning with a winter pregnancy, through a summer birth and a return to her writing career in the autumn.

$75.

Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse

Signed by the Author - Louise Erdrich

Her Most Ambitious Novel to Date

19 Erdrich, Louise. THE LAST REPORT ON THE MIRACLES AT LITTLE NO HORSE (New York: HarperCollins, 2001) First edition, first printing. SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR. 8vo, publisher’s original speckled white boards backed in brown cloth, the spine lettered in gilt, in the original dustjacket. 223 pp. A pristine copy, as mint

SIGNED FIRST EDITION BY AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR LOUISE ERDRICH. In this masterful novel Erdrich weaves a tale that spans nearly a century, the strange and compelling story of Father Damien Modeste, a beloved Ojibwe reservation priest who has hidden his true identity as a woman beneath his cassock for decades. Considered her most ambitious novel to date, “Last Report” reaffirms Ms. Erdrich’s status as one of America’s best living novelists.

$125.

Signed by the Author - Louise Erdrich

Tales of Burning Love - Continues the North Dakota Stories


SIGNED FIRST EDITION. TALES OF BURNING LOVE, like LOVE MEDICINE, begins with June Kashpah’s death during a 1981 North Dakota blizzard. It also shares with the other North Dakota novels the conviction that the universe does not reveal how to love, but still requires truthful and faithful love; the only alternative to burning love is freezing death.

$95.

A Landmark of California Literature

John Fante’s Brotherhood of the Grape - 1988

21 Fante, John. THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE GRAPE (Santa Barbara, CA: Black Sparrow Press, 1988) First edition, one of only 400 hardcover trade copies. With a photograph of the author, titlepage printed in green, grape red and brown. 8vo, in the publisher’s binding of printed paper over boards backed in white cloth with a paper label on the spine, in the original acetate dustjacket. 147, [3] pp. A pristine copy, essentially as mint but for a tiny bit of shelving evidence to the bottom edges of the boards.

a 50 year old, successful writer. Molise returns to the family home to help with the latest drama; his aging parents want to divorce. Henry’s tyrannical, brick laying father, Nick, though weak and alcoholic, can still strike fear into the hearts of his sons. His mother, though ill and devout to her Catholicism, still has the power to comfort and confuse her children. This is typical of Fante’s novels, it’s autobiographical, and brimming with love, death, violence and religion. Writing with great passion Fante powerfully hits home the damage family can wreck upon us all.

$225.

One of the Greatest SoCal Writers - John Fante

Dreams From Bunker Hill - First Edition

22 Fante, John. DREAMS FROM BUNKER HILL (Santa Barbara, CA: Black Sparrow Press, 1982 (December, 1981)) First edition, one of only 500 hardcover trade copies. With a photograph of the author, title-page printed in blue and red. 8vo, in the publisher’s original binding of decorated and coloured paper over boards backed in black cloth with a paper label on the spine, in the original acetate dustjacket. 147, [3] pp. A very fine copy, essentially as mint but for a tiny bit of shelf evidence to the bottom edge of the board, the original acetate jacket present and in fine order but for a touch of mellowing.

THE LAST COMPLETE WORK PUBLISHED IN THE AUTHOR’S LIFETIME, and the final installment of the Arturo Bandini series. Fante is one of greatest writers of Los Angeles. Charles Bukowski once famously stated “Fante was my god”. He wrote about writing and the people and places where he lived and worked, which included the Bunker Hill district of downtown Los Angeles.

$275.

A Landmark of California Literature

John Fante’s First (but Last) Bandini Novel

The Road to Los Angeles - Black Sparrow - 1985

23 Fante, John. THE ROAD TO LOS ANGELES (Santa Barbara, CA: Black Sparrow Press, 1985) First edition, one of only 400 hardcover trade copies. With a photograph of the author, titlepage printed in blue, red and purple. 8vo, in the publisher’s binding of printed paper over boards backed in black cloth with a paper label on the spine, in the original acetate dustjacket. 147, [3] pp. A very fine copy, essentially as mint but for a tiny bit of shelving evidence to the bottom board edge.

LIMITED FIRST EDITION. This was Fante’s first written novel, completed in 1936 but not published, probably due to being too provocative for the 1930s, till this posthumous edition of 1985. It is also the introduction of Fante’s alter ego Arturo Bandini, though the reading public would first meet Bandini in 1938’s Wait Until Spring, Bandini. Though rejected in the 1930s, several critics have called this Fante’s best novel.

$150.

First Edition - A Multitude of Sins - Signed by Richard Ford

Author of Independence Day - Winner of the PEN and Pulitzer


SIGNED FIRST EDITION of this group of short stories on the grand themes of love and intimacy by the author of INDEPENDENCE DAY, the first book to win both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner awards.

$85.

(617) 536-4433 - 9 - info@buddenbrooks.com

SIGNED FIRST EDITION OF ONE OF THE MOST ACCLAIMED NOVELS OF RECENT TIMES. COLD MOUNTAIN was the author’s first book and took the National Book Award honours for the year. It was said of the novel that it is “so magnificent—in every conceivable aspect, and others previously unimagined—that...the shadow of this book, and the joy...in reading it, will fall over every other book...ever read.” And Willie Morris wrote that “COLD MOUNTAIN is the most impressive and enthralling first novel I have read in a long time. It is a magnetic story, ambitious in scope, with richly developed characters and beautiful evocations of landscape...it is contemporary in the profoundest sense, with resonance of A FAREWELL TO ARMS.” The novel quickly became an international best seller.

$695.

Robert Grave’s Risky ¡CATACROK! - 1956
An Unusually Fine Copy of the First Edition

26 Graves, Robert. ¡CATACROK! Mostly Stories, Mostly Funny (London: Cassell and Co, 1956) First Edition. 8vo, publisher’s original bright blue cloth gilt lettered on the spine, in the original bright blue dustjacket decorated in yellow, black and white. 203 pp. An unusually fine copy. The book was not produced to high standards and is typically not found so well preserved as this copy. Neither the book nor jacket exhibit any wear or even evidence of use. There is no fading to the bright blue and yellow of the jacket. There is a touch of age spotting to the edges or rear panel of the jacket. A beautiful copy.

FIRST EDITION IN EXCELLENT CONDITION of this collection of 36 stories by the eternally popular English poet/scholar/translator/author/Classicalist and novelist. Many of these stories were gathered from Punch to which Mr. Graves had been contributing. The title is taken from a Majorcan term meaning to fall off a ladder or damage one’s reputation. Thirty-five of these pieces are humorous, a side of Mr. Graves’ talent that has been often underrated.

$125.

A Modern American Classic
Alex Haley - Roots - 1976

27 Haley, Alex. ROOTS (Garden City: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1976) First Edition, early issue, $12.50 price on dustjacket, no statement. Thick 8vo, publisher’s original cloth backed boards lettered and decorated in gilt. viii, 587 pp. A very fine and clean copy with only the very lightest mellowing to the jacket and some very light edgewear to the foot of the jacket.

AN AMERICAN CLASSIC. The saga of an American family and one of the great bestsellers of the 1970’s. In this work, Haley became the first African-American citizen to trace his lineage back to Africa and so for over 25,000,000 Americans of African descent rediscovered a rich cultural heritage that slavery had effectively buried.

$100.
Seamus Heaney and the Orbit of a Single Lifetime
Electric Light - First Edition - A Beautiful Copy


A VERY FINE COPY OF THIS HEANEY FIRST EDITION. In this collection of poetry the author travels widely in space and time. He visits sites of the classical world, the age of rural electrification, his childhood and the lights of ancient evenings.

$125.

Expressions of Poetic Genius - First Edition
Seamus Heaney’s Poems 1965-1975

29. Heaney, Seamus. POEMS 1965-1975 (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1980) First edition, first printing. 8vo, publisher’s original green boards, lettered in gilt on the spine and upper cover, in the printed and decorated dustjacket. ix, 228 pp. A very bright and attractive copy, the text pristine and the boards also very fine, final blank flyleaf neatly and unobtrusively extracted, the jacket very nice as well with just a little rubbing and a tiny bit of wear at the fold lines.

A VERY NICE COPY OF THIS FIRST EDITION. “This volume gathers the poems from Seamus Heaney’s four collections—Death of a Naturalist (1966), Door into the Dark (1969), Wintering Out (1972), and North (1975). These poems reflect his devotion to his land and its people as well as to the troubles of modern Ireland. A collection of significant works by one of the world’s most gifted modern poets.

$175.

The Fine Collector’s Facsimile of the First Edition
Ernest Hemingway - The Old Man and The Sea

30. Hemingway, Ernest. THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons [in collaboration with Collector’s Reprints], 1952 [1980]) The now quite scarce and best facsimile edition, near perfectly reproducing the First edition first issue. 8vo, publisher’s original pale blue cloth in the illustrated dust-jacket with portrait of Hemingway on the back panel tinted in blue, just as found on the true first issue, and in the original gray cloth slipcase decorated with pastedown’s reproducing the jacket’s front and rear panels. 140 pp. A very fine copy, all excellent and as new but for the slightest rubbing along the jacket edge from the slipcase and very minor sunning to the spine.

THE BEST OF THE FACSIMILE EDITIONS OF HEMINGWAY’S MOST FAMOUS NOVEL, THIS FINE REPRINT IS NOW QUITE SCARCE ITSELF. This was published in collaboration with the title’s original publisher, Charles Scribner’s Sons, and is identical to the true first issue but for a small printer’s statement on the copyright page.

Hemingway’s Nobel Prize winning novel and one of the most perfect works penned in the 20th century. Eric Linklater for the Broadsheet states, “Hemingway has written nothing so beautiful as this brief tale, and nowhere, I think has his vision of heroic scars of live been so surely realized... It is a little book in space but read it three times and it grows in the mind like an old story of one’s childhood: so certain it is, so satisfying are its pains and valiancy.”

$225.
The Old Man And The Sea - A Superior Copy  
First Jonathan Cape Illustrated Edition


FIRST CAPE ILLUSTRATED EDITION. "Hemingway has written nothing so beautiful as this brief tale, and nowhere, I think, has his vision of the heroic scars of life been so surely realized. It is a little book in space but read it three times and it grows in the mind like an old story of one's childhood: so certain it is, so satisfying are its pains and valiancy." - E Linklater

Vibrant illustrations by Tunnicliffe and Sheppard are scattered throughout this edition. "Originally commissioned as alternatives, these 2 artists' different interpretations of the story were considered s excellent and so interesting in their varying styles that both were included."

$750.

The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love 
First Edition - Fine in the Original Dustjacket


FIRST EDITION AND A FINE COPY. The author's second novel, winner of the National Book Award. At the top of the best-seller lists for months on end, this is a hot and spicy novel of ethnic life in New York City and the world of performing arts and it is, without doubt, a great read.

$75.

Signed by the Author - First Edition - A Mint Copy  
Silas House - A Parchment of Leaves

"Entrancing in the Manner of a Vivid Dream"


SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR. A PARCHMENT OF LEAVES is filled with the imagery and thrumming life of the Kentucky mountains. "A SEAMLESS WORK OF FICTION, entrancing in the manner of a vivid dream . . . The novel is steeped in details of place—the sounds, smells, and quality of light in House's native Kentucky." — Newsday.

$50.

Ha Jin - The Bridegroom 
A Pristine Signed Copy of the First Edition, First Issue

34 Jin, Ha. THE BRIDEGROOM Stories (New York: Pantheon Books, 2000) First edition, first issue, SIGNED by the author in both English and Chinese letters. 8vo, publisher's original mint-green boards backed in dark green cloth, lettered in gilt on the spine, in the original dustjacket. 225 pp. A pristine copy, both the book and dustjacket are as mint.

SIGNED FIRST EDITION, FIRST ISSUE BY MULTI-AWARD WINNING AUTHOR HA JIN. Jin is one of only
four authors, with Philip Roth, John Edgar Wideman and E. L. Doctorow, to have won the PEN/Hemingway Award twice. Among the many other honours his writing has received are the Flannery O'Connor Award, The Guggenheim Fellowship, The National Book Award, The Asian Fellowship Award and others. $125.

First Edition and First Issue of the Author’s Third Novel
The Crazed - Ha Jin - Very Fine in Original Dustjacket


FIRST ISSUE OF THE THIRD NOVEL BY MULTI-AWARD WINNING AUTHOR HA JIN. Jin is one of only four authors, with Philip Roth, John Edgar Wideman and E. L. Doctorow, to have won the PEN/Hemingway Award twice. Among the many other honors his writing has received are the Flannery O’Connor Award, The Guggenheim Fellowship, The National Book Award, The Asian Fellowship Award and others.

$50.

Inscribed by Ha Jin to a Fellow Award-Winning Poet
1996 - One of His Scarcest Early Works - Facing Shadows

36 Jin, Ha. FACING SHADOWS (New York: Hanging Loose Press, 1996) First edition, first issue, INSCRIBED BY THE AUTHOR TO AWARD WINNING POET ROSANNA WARREN. With a black and white frontispiece from artwork by Emily Cheng. 8vo, publisher’s original glossed paper wrappers, with artwork by Emily Cheng printed in colour on the upper cover. 69pp. A very fine copy, unusually so for a delicate item.

INSCRIBED AND SIGNED FROM ONE AWARD WINNING POET TO ANOTHER. Chinese/American author Ha Jin had won the PEN/Hemingway Award twice and is also winner of the National Book Award and Flannery O’Conner Award. This copy inscribed to award winning poet Rosanna Warren, daughter of United States Poet Laureate Robert Penn Warren.

Jin grew up in the chaos of early communist China. He was on a scholarship at Brandeis University when the 1989 Tiananmen incident occurred. The Chinese government’s forcible put-down hastened his decision to emigrate to the United States, and was the cause of his choice to write in English “to preserve the integrity of his work.”

$195.

Signed by the Author - Ha Jin - 1999
His Award Winning Literary Masterpiece - Waiting
National Book Award and PEN/Faulkner Award


SIGNED BY THE PEN/HEMINGWAY AWARD WINNING AUTHOR, and dated the year of publication, 11/16/99. Along with the PEN/Hemingway, WAITING also took home the National Book Award.

$195.
House - A Process in Luminous Detail
Signed by the Pulitzer Winning Author

38 Kidder, Tracy. HOUSE (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1985) First edition and printing, SIGNED by the author. With "blueprint" chapter titles and floor-plan endpapers. 8vo, original cream over boards, the spine lettered in gilt, in the original dustjacket. 341pp. A near fine copy, the book with only a little dusting to the top edge and some minor offsetting to a few leaves, the jacket with only a little edgewear or mellowing, very minor indeed.

SIGNED BY THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR. In this luminous book that reads like a riveting novel Kidder follows the complete process of building of a house in Massachusetts “from gleam-in-the-eye to moving day.” Owners, architects, carpenters, Kidder delves deep into the lives of all of them and artfully weaves their stories together. $65.

A Very Fine First Edition Stephen King Fantasy
The Dark Tower Series - Drawing of the Three
With Excellent Illustrations by Phil Hale

39 King, Stephen. THE DARK TOWER II: THE DRAWING OF THE THREE (West Kingston, RI: Donald M. Grant, 1987) First trade edition. With 10 colour plates and dustjacket design from original artwork commissioned for the book by Phil Hale. 8vo, publisher’s original black cloth in the colour pictorial dustjacket and original cello shrink-wrapping. 399pp., and afterward by King. Mint, a pristine copy completely as new and with the publisher’s original cello packaging completely intact.

FIRST EDITION AND A SUPERB COPY OF STEPHEN KING’S WESTERN SERIES OF TIME TRAVEL, FANTASY, HORROR AND ADVENTURE. The series was inspired by ‘Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came’ by Robert Browning. This entry in the story is a continuation of The Gunslinger and follows Roland of Gilead and his quest towards the Dark Tower.

King identified other inspiration for THE DARK TOWER as being THE LORD OF THE RINGS, the Arthurian Legend and the motion picture ‘The Good, the Bad and the Ugly’.

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The Cult Classic Spaniard in the Works


FIRST EDITION. The second title by the influential song writer and musician. Now a cult classic. The name is a pun on the expression “a spanner in the works” (thus the wrench in Lennon’s hand on the cover of the book). $95.

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William Faulkner and Cormac McCarthy. Ambitious in scope and passionately executed, this epic novel is the rarest of things: a truly moving, emotionally honest, and intellectually satisfying American family.

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Cormac McCarthy’s Award Winning Novel
All the Pretty Horses - First Edition - 1992

42 McCarthy, Cormac. ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992) First Edition. 8vo, publisher’s original cloth backed black boards, in the illustrated dustjacket with Publisher’s Weekly blurb and first letter on front flap in colour. 302 pp. A very fine copy in a very fine dust-jacket, as pristine and mint.

FIRST EDITION. Basis for the movie featuring Matt Damon, Henry Thomas, and Penélope Cruz. First volume in The Border Trilogy. Winner of both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Its romanticism, in contrast to the bleakness of McCarthy’s earlier work, brought the writer much public attention. The novel tells of John Grady Cole, a sixteen year old cowboy who grew up on his grandfather’s ranch in San Angelo, Texas.

All the books of the “Border Trilogy” are written in an unconventional format which omits traditional Western punctuation such as quotation marks and makes use of polysyndetic syntax in a manner similar to that of Ernest Hemingway.

$550.

First Edition of Cormac McCarthy’s Cities of the Plain
“The Height of McCarthy’s Storytelling Skill”


FIRST EDITION. The third installment in McCarthy’s famed “Border Trilogy” which also included “All the Pretty Horses’ and ‘The Crossing’.

“The final volume of Cormac McCarthy’s Border Trilogy, ties together the separate tales of John Grady Cole from All the Pretty Horses and Billy Parham from The Crossing to create a more realistic Billy and a more mythic John Grady. Within the confines of a relatively sparse 293 pages, the classic “all-american cowboy” John Grady devotes himself to saving every hurt or wounded creature that crosses his path, a noble and impossible task that leads ultimately to his own destruction. The tragedy of his failed rescue of the epileptic prostitute Magdalena makes a martyr of the near-faultless John Grady, yet McCarthy stubbornly refuses to let the novel backslide into blubbery melodrama. Told in both McCarthy’s signature lyrical style and his dead-on ranchero dialogue, Cities of the Plain ends the trilogy at the height of McCarthy’s storytelling skill.” - Knopf.

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A Narayan Collection of Short Stories
The First To Be Published Outside of India


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By One of the Most Noted Indian Authors of Our Time


FIRST EDITION OF A deeply moving life story told first person by a tiger born wild but captured and forced to perform in a circus. The book relates this and his eventual escape from his oppressors. Narayan consulted with noted tiger expert K. Ullas Karanth on the writing of this novel. The novel is one of those rare combinations of wisdom and humor treasured by readers of R. K. Narayan’s works.

$50.

From The Dean of American Crime Fiction
Boston P.I. Spenser Tracks the Red Rose Killer

46 Parker, Robert B. CRIMSON JOY (New York: Delacorte, 1988) First edition, first printing, SIGNED by the author, Robert Parker. 8vo, in the publisher’s white boards backed in black cloth, the spine with lettering in red foil, in the original dustjacket. 211pp. As new, the white boards as bright as snow, the dustjacket essentially pristine.

SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR AND A MINT COPY. The story follows Boston based P.I. Spenser as he tracks a serial killer the press has dubbed the “Red Rose Killer”. The case becomes personal for Spenser, Hawk and Dr. Susan Silverman, challenging their safety and testing their relationship.

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One of His Best and Most Complex New Orleans Novels


FIRST EDITION OF THIS CLASSIC OF MODERN SOUTHERN LITERATURE. It tells the story of the dejected lawyer Lancelot Lamar, who murders his wife after discovering that he is not the father of her youngest daughter. He ends up in a mental institution, where his story is told through his reflections on his disturbing past. The novel compares the protagonist unfavorably to his namesake, Sir Lancelot, as he experiences a vision of an empty modern American culture which invokes the symbolism of the mythical Wasteland.

$95.

Walker Percy - The Message in the Bottle - 1975
First Edition - First Printing - Original Dustjacket

48 Percy, Walker. THE MESSAGE IN THE BOTTLE, How Queer Man Is, How Queer Language Is, and What One Has To Do With the Other (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1975) First Edition, first printing. 8vo, publisher’s original tangerine cloth lettered in gilt, in the original dustjacket. x, 335 pp. The book is quite fine, the jacket is also fine though with a touch of minor toning.

FIRST EDITION OF THIS CLASSIC BOOK of essays on semiotics, language and culture. Percy argues a middle-ground between Judeo-Christian ethics, which give the individual freedom and responsibility; and the rationalism of science and behaviorism, which positions man as an organism in an environment and strips him of this freedom.

$150.
First Edition in English of Cities of the Plain
From Marcel Proust’s Classic Remembrance of Things Past

49 Proust, Marcel. CITIES OF THE PLAIN (New York: Albert & Charles Boni, 1927) 2 volumes. First Edition, American Issue, one of 2000 numbered copies only. 8vo, publisher’s original white cloth over striped boards of silver and black, housed in the original silver covered slipcase. [8], 352; [6], 384 pp. A very fine set, as pristine, the slipcase with a bit of age, the books perfect.

FIRST EDITION FROM MARCEL PROUST’S MAGNUM OPUS, REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST. RANKED BY SOME AS THE FINEST ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 20TH CENTURY NOVEL. CITIES OF THE PLAIN is a translation of “Sodome et Gomorrhe I” from the fourth part and a portion of “Sodome et Gomorrhe II” from the fifth part.

It took 13 years to write “The Remembrance” in its entirety, as Proust worked on it from 1909-1922. At first he was worried that it might end up at a total of 1,000 pages. Instead, when he finished it, it was in excess of 3,000. In 1912 the manuscript of SWANN’S WAY was rejected by the publishers of the Nouvelle Revue Francaise and Andre Gide was forever after to consider it his greatest regret to have misjudged the importance of this great masterwork.

$325.

Ayn Rand - The Fountainhead - Early Printing - 1943
A Masterpiece of Twentieth Century Literature

50 Rand, Ayn. THE FOUNTAINHEAD (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1943) Early issue, no edition or printing stated, retaining the first edition errors on pp. 321, 381 and 480. 8vo, publisher’s original dark green cloth lettered in gilt on the spine and upper cover. 754 pp. An about fine copy, very bright, clean and tight. A very well preserved copy.

A FINE EARLY PRINTING OF THIS CLASSIC WORK IN TWENTIETH CENTURY LITERATURE, AN AYN RAND MASTERPIECE.

$350.

First Edition - Signed by Philip Roth
Operation Shylock - A Beautiful Copy in Dustjacket

51 Roth, Philip. OPERATION SHYLOCK A Confession (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993) First edition, first printing, SIGNED AND DATED BY THE AUTHOR in the year of publication, 1993. Large 8vo, original gray boards backed in blue cloth, the spine lettered in gilt, in the original publisher’s dustjacket. 398pp. A very fine copy, essentially as new, the jacket likewise.

INSCRIBED AND DATED BY THE AWARD WINNING AUTHOR. Many considered this to be Roth’s best works since ‘Portnoy’s Complaint’. Both suspenseful and hilarious it is essentially a spy story in which Roth confronts his own double, an impostor whose self-appointed task is to lead the Jews out of Israel and back into Europe, a “Moses in reverse” and a cunning nemesis to the real “Philip Roth.”

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Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
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52 Rowling, J.K. HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (London: Bloomsbury, 1999) First issue of the deluxe edition. With an illustrated titlepage and with letter reproduction at the end. 8vo, publisher’s original blue cloth lettered and with a colour pictorial pastedown on the upper cover, the spine gilt lettered, a.e.g. and with silk bookmark stitched in. This edition was issued without a dustjacket. 251,

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Rowling is nearly as famous for her rags to riches story. She wrote the first of the series on a used manual typewriter while living on welfare in 1995. She was rejected by 12 publishers before finding Bloomsbury, who suggested that she should also find a day job as there was no money to be made in children’s books. By 2007 Forbes had named Rowling as the first person to become a U.S.-dollar billionaire by writing books, the second-richest female in an entertainment industry, and the 1,062nd richest person in the world. $650.

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Gertrude Stein’s Four Saints in Three Acts
First Edition - 1934 - Original Cloth in Dustjacket

54 Stein, Gertrude. FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS. An Opera to be Sung. (New York: Random House, 1934) First edition. 8vo, publisher’s original black cloth lettered in gilt. 57 pp. A handsome copy of the book, generally very good, the dustjacket has some edgewear and some chipping, a larger chip to the jacket’s spine panel.

FIRST EDITION. “Gertrude Stein’s strange and baffling prose cadences provide a challenge to reader and publisher alike. Random House accepts the challenge and offers the text of Miss Stein’s most disturbing and inciting work.” - from dustjacket blurb.

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$95.
56 Stone, Robert. DOG SOLDIERS A Novel (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1974) First edition, first issue. 8vo, original light brown cloth lettered on the upper cover and spine in black, the spine also lettered in gilt, in the original dustjacket. 342 pp. A very fine copy, the jacket especially fine as well, a pristine copy. A NEAR AS NEW COPY OF THE AUTHOR’S SECOND BOOK. The novel was winner of the National Book Award and brought considerable fame to the author who has been called “one of the best living writers in America” - Harold Bloom. Many still consider DOG SOLDIERS to be his most notable work and one of the finest books on the effects of the Vietnam War ever penned. $195.

57 Tolkien, J. R. R. NARN I CHÎN HÚRIN - The Tale of the Children of Húrin Edited by Christopher Tolkien (Boston: Houghton Mifflin at the Riverside Press, 2007) First and DELUXE edition. Illustrated by Alan Lee with eight impressive colour plates and twenty-five illustrations within the text from pencil sketches, and with a new folding map by Christopher Tolkien derived from one his father had done in the 1930s. Included is a colour frontispiece exclusively found in this deluxe edition. 8vo, in the deluxe binding of quarter blue textured paper over gray boards, stamped on the upper cover in gilt with the Helm of Hador and gilt lettered on the spine, housed in the matching original slipcase, no jacket was issued. 313pp. The book is as new, pristine and without flaw, the slipcase is nearly pristine as well. THE SPECIAL DELUXE EDITION OF THE FIRST STAND-ALONE TALE OF MIDDLE EARTH TO BE PUBLISHED SINCE 1977, and the first complete version of one of Tolkien’s “Great Tales.” This Deluxe Edition had many exclusive features; from its impressive colour frontispiece to the fine quality of paper. All of these fine features are fitting to this epic fantasy novel which forms the completion of a tale Tolkien wrote the original version of in the late 1910s, revised it several times later, but did not complete it before his death in 1973. Christopher Tolkien edited his father’s manuscripts to form the consistent narrative published for the first time here. $195.

58 Tolkien, J. R. R. THE RETURN OF THE KING (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1955) First edition, First Printing with “First Published in 1955” on the copyright page. With the decorated title-page runes designed by the author and with the large folding map at the rear. 8vo, publisher’s original red cloth with gilt lettered spine, t.e.r., in original decorated dustjacket printed in black, red and gold. 416 pp. A very handsome and bright copy, the jacket especially clean and well preserved, ownership stamp to the front pastedown and a bit of offset to the free-fly. FIRST EDITION OF THE FINAL BOOK OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK OF FANTASY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. The third and final volume of J. R. R. Tolkien’s “The Lord of the Rings” (following The Fellowship of the Ring and The Two Towers) begins in the kingdom of Gondor, which is soon to be attacked by the Dark Lord Sauron. Tolkien though the title was too much of a spoiler, giving away too much of the story and wanted to call it “The War of the Ring”. But Allen & Unwin preferred “The Return of the King”, and the rest is Middle Earth history. $2450.
J.R.R. Tolkien's First Conception  
*The Silmarillion* - The Precursor to “Lord of the Rings”

59 Tolkien, J. R. R.  *THE SILMARILLION*, edited by Christopher Tolkien  (London: George Allen and Unwin, 1977) First edition. With a large folding map at the rear. 8vo, publisher’s original blue cloth in pictorial dust-jacket. 304, genealogical tables, notes, index, appendix. A fine and bright copy, beautifully preserved inside and out, the jacket with a little age mellowing to the red lettering on the spine as is nearly always the case and a trivial touch of edging.  

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