

Jonathan Kearns
Rare Books

Spring Cleaning #4
The Weird Tales & Mysterious
Crimes Edition

jonathan@kearnsrarebooks.com
@bibliodeviant

As I continue to burrow through mounds of books towards the light, I'll be throwing out a number of lo-fi quick lists of things of interest. In this case there's a thematic structure, but any minute it's due to cascade into magic lantern slides, book art, stray bits of paper, and some very unusual manuscripts. All enquiries welcome, photographs available upon request: jonathan@kearnsrarebooks.com or give me a dm on Twitter or Instagram @Bibliodeviant

1. **Aickman, Robert. *Painted Devils*.**

New York: Charles Scribners, 1979.

First US edition. 8vo. 234pp. Publisher's black cloth titled in silver gilt to spine, minor edgewear, a very good copy in a very good, sharp, Edward Gorey dustjacket. Internally clean and fresh. A collection of stories that only exists in this edition for the US market. Edward Gorey and Robert Aickman in the same book is not to be sniffed at.

[Ref: 971] £100

2. **Ainsworth, Harrison [Illus. H.K. Browne]. *Auriol; Or, The Elixir of Life*.**

London: George Routledge and Sons., [1880's].

Author's Copyright Edition. 8vo. 246pp. Contemporary half green calf gilt over marbled boards, a spot of scuffing and wear to extremities, but a very good, handsome copy. Red title label, top edge gilt. Internally clean and fresh, illustrated throughout in fine manic goth style by Hablot Knight Browne, aka the matchless Phiz. The narrative madness of mid 19th century fiction is often subsumed beneath the erroneous impression that everyone was walking about being all starchy and repressed in very severe clothing. Should anyone wish for a crash course in just how crazed and frothing 1840's serialised fiction could be, might do worse than read this; 200 year old fiends, crooks, thieves, swindlers, and dog fanciers (a professional dog thief) with names like Sandman and Tinker, and a storyline that jumps between 1599 and 1830 via an elaborate interlude in 1800, a vengeful dwarf called Flapdragon, the Illuminati, Rosicrucians, possible time travel, the elixir of life, and a hefty dose of who on earth has any idea what is happening. It makes the tortuous floundering of Varney the Vampire look like taut, precise plot building. It's fantastic, in every meaning of the word and this kind of scattergun, two fingers up to classification deliriousness needs a renaissance.

[Ref: 965] £175

3. **Bain, R. Nibet [Translated from the Danish of Jonas Lie]. *Weird Tales from Northern Seas*.**

London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., 1893.

First edition. Large 8vo. Publisher's sea green cloth titled and decorated in gilt to spine and

front board. A trifle rubbed and sunned to the spine with a small spit to the hinge cloth, nevertheless strong and handsome. Internally clean with some toning to prelims, Illustrated with full page plates by Laurence Housman. A rather deluxe collection of translated Scandinavian sea folk tales replete with Draugr, Gann-Finn and Huldrefish. Scarce and highly attractive.

[Ref: 866] £125

4. **Beach, Rex. *The Mating Call*.**

London: Readers Library Publishing Company, n.d. [1928].

Readers Library reprint edition, usually published to tie in with a film production. In this case the film was the 1928 romance vehicle by James Cruze, starring Thomas Meighan and Evelyn Brent as the shellshocked ex soldier and the Russian emigre he falls for. Publisher's burgundy "cloth" gilt, as usual for these delightful books they are produced as if someone has had "burgundy cloth gilt" described to them over a staticky phonline and then been forced to reproduce the concept using only what is in their desk drawer, rather like a 16th century Rhinoceros. There's the ubiquitous edgewear and discolouration, the bright and typically arresting dustjacket has some fraying to the edges and some closed tears to the spine ends but is looking pretty spiffy otherwise. Internally clean, although the printing medium bears as much resemblance to quality paper as I do to Timothy Chalamet. These little books are gorgeous and delightful and trashy, and can be found everywhere in bits but rarely in their complete glory.

[Ref: 962] £50

5. **Bellamy, Edward. *Looking Backward: AD 2000-1887*.**

London: Ward Lock, [1890].

Third UK edition. 8vo. Publisher's illustrated blue cloth, a trifle rubbed and scuffed, perhaps some spots of sunning. A very good, strong copy. 236pp. + 28pp. ads (not including the ads covering every square inch of endpaper and pastedown space...there's a lot of ads). A famously influential Utopian novel, only outsold in its time by Uncle Tom's Cabin, and Ben Hur, spawning numerous nationalist movements, journals and theories, and resulting in a number of sequels. Deeply socialist, deeply labour movement oriented and frankly quite an awesome piece of utopian fiction with real world implications and effects. It's not often a piece of speculative fiction gets compared to Das Kapital, and if you were looking for an occasion when it happened, this is it. From the library of the late Richard Dalby, with some of his notes laid in. Important.

[Ref: 870] £225

6. **Belloc Lowndes, Mrs. *The House of Peril* [A Chink in The Armour].**

London: The Readers Library, n.d. [1930's].

8vo. Film edition (a 1922 silent drama adapted from the original title). Publisher's maroon paper covered boards with lavish gilt decoration, a little shaken around the spine, with some bumping, nevertheless a very good copy of a fragile book, Readers Library books being a byword for low production values. In a lovely bright example of the highly dramatic dustwrapper, minor edgewear, some cracking to the spine hing, but very handsome. A cautionary tale involving a wealthy widow falling under the influence of the denizens of a French gambling resort.

[Ref: 853] £100

7. **Benson, E.F. *Visible and Invisible*.**

London: Hutchinson, [1946].

Reprint edition. 8vo. 176pp. Publisher's red cloth titled in black to spine, in a very good bright, clean dustwrapper with some minor edgewear and fraying. A very superior copy indeed of a fragile book. Internally clean. Benson's second collection of weird and supernatural yarning; continuing Benson's preoccupation with large, sinister women, vampires, and of course, a giant slug. All in a day's work.

[Ref: 988] £150

8. **Bowen, Marjorie. *The Viper of Milan*.**

London: Readers Library, n.d. [1930].

Readers Library edition, small 8vo. Publisher's maroon cloth gilt, surprisingly strong and clean considering Readers Library books are to durability what I am to stable, wholesome relationships; a total stranger. Internally clean, though tanned due to the worst paper stock in publishing history, in a gloriously bright and unfaded example of the utterly bananas dustwrapper, with one rather annoying defect: a chunk of loss to the head of the spine panel, maybe a centimetre square, otherwise this would be in the running for the best Reader's Library dustwrapper I have ever seen. Ah well, it's a pretty little copy of this legendary writer's first book, and I can't quit my lust/loathe relationship with Readers Library...

[Ref: 865] £75

9. **Brophy, John. *The Woman From Nowhere*.**

London: Collins, 1946.

First edition. 8vo. 160pp. Publisher's purple cloth titled in gilt to spine. Minor edgewear and rubbing, a very good, strong copy in a dustwrapper, priceclipped, somewhat faded to the spine and with some light scuffing and wear. Internally clean. A rather charmingly odd story about a man who returns from war, inherits a mysterious house, and to all intents and purposes dreams himself a whole girlfriend who may or may not be a cat. We've all been there.

[Ref: 945] £35

10. **Colqhoun, Ithell. *Sword of Wisdom***; Macgregor Mathers and The Golden Dawn.

London: Neville Spearman, 1975.

First Edition. 8vo. 307pp. Publisher's orange cloth titled in gilt, a near fine copy in like dustjacket, clean, bright and exceptionally smart. Internally clean and fresh. From the collection of Richard Dalby, notable explorer of the odd, with his usual small sheaf of ephemera laid in at the front. Difficult in this condition, fascinating in any state both for the subject matter, and for the author, the luminous Ithell Colqhoun.

[Ref: 982] £150

11. **Creswicke, Louis. *Magnetism and Mystery, or, A Life's Romance*.**

London: Simkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., [1890's].

Seventh Thousand. 8vo. 139pp. + 2pp. ads. Publisher's decorated card wraps, printed in black, red and white, with a truly splendid ad for Brooke's Soap to the rear panel. Some minor chipping and edgewear here and there, but the most significant defect would be to the bottom corner of the front panel, where the card has cracked and at some point been repaired. Internally clean, intentionally ephemeral, essentially and very good copy of a fragile object. Louis Creswicke was at one point a pretty prolific jobbing writer, now almost completely forgotten except for his multi volume history of The Boer War (there was also a half way popular novel entitled "Love's Usuries"), this rather intense detective caper with

supernatural elements has rather slipped under the historical radar. It's pretty brilliant, there's a murder, an open and shut suspect, a struggle to prove innocence, and the repeated influence of a very sinister cat. To quote one of the reviews in the back "The story...is one that may be especially recommended to railway travellers." You get a murder wrapped in weirdness, can't say fairer than that.

[Ref: 973] £250

12. **Derleth, August [Frank Utpatel, Mark Lefebvre]. Last Light.**

Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin: Minor Confluence [Perishable Press], 1978.

Limited edition, #130 of 150. 4to. Quarter vellum spine over marbled boards. A fine copy. Internally clean, edges untrimmed. A posthumously published collection of Derleth's poetry, printed on handmade rag paper constructed from the clothes of Derleth, Utpatel and Lefebvre. Illustrated with beautiful engravings by Utpatel, with a foreword by Lefebvre. A rather beautiful and touching object, by definition rather scarce.

[Ref: 939] £250

13. **Donaldson, Lady Mary Letitia [also: Mary Webster, Mary Christie]. Tales and Sketches.**

St. Andrews: W.C. Henderson and Co. University Press, 1911.

Privately Printed. 8vo. 122pp. Publisher's white and polychrome cloth binding, titled in gilt to spine and front board. Top edge gilt, internally clean, a very good copy indeed. A little soiling to the white cloth here and there. A rather touching and interesting privately printed memento mori for Lady Mary Letitia Donaldson, wife of Sir James Donaldson, Principal of the University of St. Andrews. Born Mary Webster (under which name she wrote a Life of Patrick Hamilton in 1880, published at St. Andrews, and later Mary Christie, Lady Donaldson seems to have been a woman of considerable skills and interests. This slim volume contains some of her notes on travel through, most prevalently, Italy and Switzerland, displaying that she was a keen and observant historian and classicist; in addition there are a number of short stories and narrative fragments of a decidedly weird bent, most notably "The Black Demon" and the rather charming "Carp of Fontainbleu" which is probably the only talking fish story I currently have in my catalogue. I must do better. Printed necessarily in small numbers and distributed to the friends of Lady Donaldson, with an introduction written by her husband.

[Ref: 936] £175

14. **Fleming, Keith [Pseud: Kathleen Fitzpatrick]. The Weird of The Beresfords.**

London: George Routledge, [1903].

Routledge paperback reprint, probably for the Railway market. 8vo. 126pp+8pp. ads scattered throughout the volume (with ads to all available surfaces on the covers). Minor fraying and edgewear, closed tear to front spine hinge extending one third of the way up the spine, a little frayed and chipped to the spine but remarkably bright and well preserved. Internally clean.

[Ref: 983] £250

15. **Golding, Louis. Luigi of Catanzaro.**

London: E. Archer, 1926.

Signed Limited Edition (#95 of 100 copies). Signed by the Author. Inscribed on half titled to Emanuel Litvinoff, poet of outstanding ability, who amongst other splendid achievements, did a stint as a ghost writer for Golding after World War 2. 4to. buff paper wraps, some slight soiling and rubbing here and there, a little frayed around the edges, but strong. Internally clean. It has some status as Queen's Quorum 73, and also for being one of the more obscure

and difficult titles to be added to that important list, dealing as it does with the canonisation of a man who is known to be a Jew, the discussion as to his suitability being carried out in Heaven by Christian notables like Francis of Assisi and Thomas Aquinas. Very scarce, kind of awesome.

[Ref: 938] £375

16. **Goldring, Maude. *Lonely England*.**

London: Stephen Swift, 1911.

First edition. 8vo. 240pp. + 14pp. ads ("Books That Compel"). Bound in publisher's oatmeal cloth titled and decorated in gilt, black and white to spine and front board. A trifle scuffed and bumped here and there, but a very good, strong copy. Internally clean, pictorial endpapers, edges untrimmed, a rather attractive little book, produced with a rather understated elegance (the ads are printed in a rather dandified red and black, there are colour plates by Agnes Pike, the House of Swift* was not messing about). This is a very deft and lovely collection of short prose pieces and verse dealing with, unsurprisingly, the remoter corners of England, both geographically and metaphysically. It's a collection of lost paths, strange beings dwelling in bottomless pools, and traces of the creatures that dwell deep in the trees, just around the hill, and under the rocks. Mostly forgotten I would imagine, although Maude Goldring had a sort of following amongst journals like *Country Life* and *The Saturday Review*, and was known somewhat for a novel entitled "The Tenants of Pixy Farm", her most notable work however, was a biographical study of Charlotte Bronte.

* Stephen Swift, Publisher, was in fact Charles Granville; magnificent raconteur, patron of writers and artists, convicted bigamist, fugitive from justice, embezzler, and all round roving literary whirlwind. He published books of a somewhat radical and avant garde nature (Bergson, Belloc and Chesterton were all labouring in his somewhat chaotic publishing hedge maze), one of his more famous "discoveries" being a young Arthur Ransome, who had to take the rather unusual response to Granville running off with his secretary and a sizeable royalty cheque, of squatting in the Swift offices to ensure that the rights to his works not end up in anyone's hands but his own. Granville had run off to Algiers, was dragged back, tried for bigamy and imprisoned, despite both of his wives giving testimony that he was amongst the better type of husband. Never let it be said that the British book trade is staid or dull.

[Ref: 932] £125

17. **Harper, C. G. *Haunted Houses; Tales of the Supernatural with Some Account of Hereditary Curses and Family Legends*.**

London: Cecil Palmer, 1931.

Third edition (after the 1924 revision and enlargement). 8vo. 286pp. + 2pp. Index. Publisher's black cloth titled and decorated in white to spine and front board. Minor bumping to extremities, a striking copy. Internally clean. Two newspaper clippings dealing with haunted houses laid in at the rear. Illustrated copiously throughout, with a frontispiece portrait of none other than the luminous Barbara Villiers.

[Ref: 956] £100

18. **Horler, Sydney. *The 13th Hour*.**

London: Readers Library PUBLISHING Company, n.d. [1928].

Reader's Library edition, published to accompany the Lionel Barrymore movie, a gathering of film stills can be found in the centre of the book. Publisher's burgundy cloth gilt, slightly brighter than usual, but still gloriously pulpy in demeanour, a very good copy in a fabulously dramatic dustjacket, closed tears and some small marginal loss here and there, mainly to

spine ends. Internally clean. Horler was kind of gross, but this crime caper involving an intrepid detective and his rather precocious canine partner hunting down a villainous murderer is kind of delightful. A pretty example.

[Ref: 964] £45

19. **Horler, Sydney. False Face.**

London: Nelson, [1948].

Nelson 3/- novels series. 279pp. Publisher's red cloth titled in gilt to spine, minor bumping and a trifle dusty, a very good copy in a bright and rather delightful dustwrapper, a trifle worn and creased around the edges, some chipping to the spine ends, sharp and clean. Internally clean. One doesn't see Nelson's in dustwrappers often enough, charming little books. Horler might not have been terribly charming, but this is a very nice example of a reprint of one of his Sir Brian Fordinghame stories (the first, in fact), in which Department YI of British Intelligence infiltrates all manner of shady foreign infiltration.

[Ref: 935] £60

20. **Horler, Sydney. Horror's Head.**

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1933.

First edition, 2nd Impression. 8vo. 320pp. Publisher's blue cloth, titled in darker blue to spine and front board, pretty sharp and clean, with some very light edgewear, a very good copy in a bright dustjacket, some soiling to the white rear panel, some thumb marks and marginal creases and tears, some very small loss, but still rather stubbornly cool. Internally clean, some light spotting to page edges. Basically my love hate relationship with Horler continues apace; on the one hand he was a racist, homophobic man-Karen...on the other this story is about a man born WITH THE HEAD OF A WOLF! So this is uncomfortable, but if it's any consolation he isn't getting any money out of this, it goes to the estate of Richard Dalby, whose book this was and which contains another of his index cards...so that's something.

[Ref: 974] £85

21. **Jacobs, W.W. The Lady of The Barge.**

London: Harpers, 1902.

First edition. 8vo. Publisher's terracotta cloth titled and decorated in black and gilt to spine and front board. Bumping to spine ends, some marking to the cloth, minor edgewear, a very good, solid copy. Internally clean, illustrated throughout by Maurice Greffenhagen. Pencil ownership to front flyleaf. Contains "The Well", which is perfectly splendid story on its own, but this title is primarily known for being the first publication of the epic "The Monkey's Paw", the chilling tale that nailed Jacobs into the annals of the weird. Rare.

[Ref: 886] £300

22. **Johnson, G. Lindsay. Weird Adventures of Professor Delapine Of The Sorbonne.**

London: George Routledge and Sons, 1916.

First edition. 8vo. 344pp. Publisher's blue cloth titled in black to spine and front board. Light rubbing, scuffing, and bumping to extremities, a kind of uniform overall wear, nothing beyond the cosmetic, but then nothing crying out "revel in my beauty, mortal!" either. Internally clean, spotting to prelims, occasions bouts of restrained foxing here and there, the bottom corner of page 95 is missing, and has been for quite some time, just clipping the text on page 96, as luck would have it. Oh, and the rear endpaper has gone off to have adventures somewhere else, most likely as a shopping list. I'm calling it a very good copy, because it

deserves credit for being structurally sound and stubbornly retaining its bookish integrity, but it's not the clean, spry, youngster it once was. Much like myself. Actually a rather fascinating little collection of spiritualist related episodes, purporting to be adapted from factual experience after a chance meeting on holiday in France (it appears that many Edwardian gentlemen had the wherewithal to wander about in Norfolk jackets, chomping their pipestems and studying the mysteries beyond the veil, I'm surprised there weren't tour groups). Names have been changed to protect the innocent etc. There's more than a hint of Hodgson, mixed in with the hearty bet hedging of Doyle. A worthy thing.

[Ref: 996] £50

23. **Laing, Alexander (Editor); Ward, Lynd (Illustrator). *The Haunted Omnibus*.** London: Cassell and Co., 1937.

First UK Edition. 8vo. 848pp. Publisher's black cloth titled in silver gilt to spine, some bumping to spine ends, small dint to front board, otherwise a very good strong copy, this book is built upon monumental lines, and is here to stay. In a clean and bright example of the seldom seen cream dustjacket, light fraying to extremities, small losses to spine ends. Very handsome. A rather fabulous compendium of truly great stories from, well, just about everyone; from May Sinclair and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, to James, Machen, Poe, and Pliny The Elder.

[Ref: 985] £275

24. **Le Fanu, Joseph Sheridan. *Uncle Silas*** A Tale of Bartram Haugh.

London: Richard Bentley, 1865.

Second edition. 3 vols. 8vo. Bound in black half calf with extra gilt and red title labels. Hinge repair to volume I. Bindings strong and handsome, minor edgewear. Page edges speckled red. Internally clean and fresh. Half titles to volumes II and III. A lovely set of a scarce edition, published the year after the first. Little needs to be said about Le Fanu other than that he was amazing, a ferociously deft writer with a perfectly balanced sense of atmosphere and nuance. Arguably the inventor of the psychological thriller, fight me. This novel was described as "The finest Victorian mystery novel" by none other than Everett Bleiler, who is widely accepted as having known a thing or two. Very scarce.

[Ref: 961] £4,000

25. **Macardle, Dorothy. *The Uninvited*.**

New York: Doubleday Moran, 1942.

First edition. 8vo. Very good in publisher's dark blue cloth titled in gilt to spine. In a very good example of the scarce dustwrapper, minor edgewear, some sunning to spine panel, and some slight chipping and wear to extremities. A pretty handsome copy of a book seldom seen as such. Basis for the 1944 Ray Milland film, much beloved of Scorsese, an unnerving North Devon set chiller. Scarce.

[Ref: 822] £400

26. **Maskelyne, Nevil [with] Devant, David. *Our Magic*.**

London: Routledge, [1912].

First edition. Large 8vo. 487pp. Publisher's lavishly decorated terra cotta cloth titled in gilt and embellished in black, white, blue and red (with some polychromatic elements which I had oddly never noticed before). Minor edgewear and scuffing, but a very good, clean, copy indeed. Internally clean and fresh. Packed to the brim with illustrations and photographs of all forms of stagecraft, trickery, legerdemain and conjuring, plus some excellent facial hair. An

in depth examination of the art from two men who, at the time, were undoubtedly the most famous magicians in the country.

[Ref: 868] £225

27. **Mayo, Herbert. On The Truths Contained In Popular Superstitions, With an Account of Mesmerism..**

Edinburgh: William Blackwood and Sons, 1851.

Third Edition. 8vo. 248pp. Publisher's tan ribbed cloth titled in gold to spine. Some light edgewear, scuffing to extremities, chipping to spine ends, a little discoloured, internally clean, essentially a very good copy. A pretty comprehensive and fascinating collection of short treatises on everything from Divining to Vampires, via mesmerism and all manner of haunting. Scarce.

[Ref: 953] £175

28. **Metcalf, John. Yorkshire Dialect Plays [The Bunderley Boggard etc.].**

London: Heath Cranton, [1919].

First edition. 8vo. 160pp. Publisher's blue paper covered boards, a shade rubbed here and there, but a very good clean copy. Internally clean. From the library of Richard Dalby, with a small sheaf of his ephemera laid in. Not the John Metcalf of "The Feasting Dead" fame, although I'm pretty sure that's why Richard bought it, but the work of a wool merchant from Baildon, a rather scintillating linguist and someone whose work was admired by the noted academic F.W. Moorman, who wrote the introduction. This slim volume contains a number of plays, written in the Yorkshire dialect of the West Riding with the intent of preserving a dialect and a way of life which, even at the opening of the 20th century, people felt was in danger of dying out. Moorman's foreword states "...men and women thought and spoke and acted with less constraint and less regard for public opinion than is now the case." I mean, he says it like it's a good thing, so there's that, but it does rather serve to point out that nothing ever really changes. It's a rather fascinating little volume, plus it mentions Boggards, and I'm a sucker for a Boggard.

[Ref: 950] £50

29. **Middleton, Jessie Adelaide. The Grey Ghost Book [with] Another Grey Ghost Book** (With a Chapter on Prophetic Dreams, and a Note on Vampires).

London: Eveleigh Nash, 1915, 1914..

Uniform Editions. 8vo. 2 vols. [Technically making, I believe, the Grey Ghost Book a first thus, and Another Grey Ghost Book the true first edition...bookselling, one long glamorous party]. Publisher's grey cloth titled in black and gilt, both very good copies, a tad bumped and scuffed here and there, and a little sunned to the spines, but respectable nevertheless. Two collections of "True" ghost stories and anecdotes of the supernatural and weird, including interactions with spirits and clairvoyance, vengeful phantoms, the legend of The House in Berkeley Square (a real house until recently occupied by the venerable bookselling firm of Maggs Brothers, on can only wonder if they took the ghosts with them when they moved), and the aforementioned note on Vampires which references the Meducgna disinterments of 1732 which apparently disclosed a veritable colony of vampires in the town's cemetery.

[Ref: 832] £250

30. **Middleton, Jessie Adelaide. The White Ghost Book.**

London: Cassell, 1916.

First Edition. 8vo. 287pp. Publisher's grey cloth titled in green and black to spine and front

board. Minor bumping and edgewear, some fading to the spine. A clean handsome copy. Internally clean. Slight foxing to prelims. "Illustrated with four ghost photographs and other plates". The third in Jessie Middleton's true ghost story collection, containing information of photographing a ghost and a lengthy section detailing haunted houses and their supposed alleged occupants. Lovely.

[Ref: 955] £175

31. **M'Levy, James. *Curiosities of Crime in Edinburgh*.**

Edinburgh: William Kay, 1861.

Stated Fourth edition. 8vo. Full pebble grained morocco gilt. 304pp. All edges gilt. Minor scuffing and edgewear, a very good, clean copy. Internally clean. A rather scarce little collection of horse's mouth crime memoir from Victorian Edinburgh, inscribed:

"The Author's Respectful Compliments, 25th February, 1861"

James M'Levy became a policeman in 1830, handling more than 2,200 cases throughout his career, becoming Edinburgh's first, and arguably most famous, detective, and penning a number of phenomenally popular accounts of criminal investigation. He is occasionally cited as a possible inspiration for Arthur Conan Doyle, who studied in Edinburgh. Inscribed material is scarce. Gritty and full of adventures with titles like "The Bloodstained Moleskin."

[Ref: 1004] £200

32. **Nisbet, Hume. *The Matador* and Other Recitative Pieces.**

London: Hutchinson, 1893.

First edition. 8vo. Publisher's black cloth, a trifle rubbed and stained, titled and decorated in gilt to spine and front board, sunned to spine. Edges untrimmed, and, largely uncut, some soiling to the heads of some of the pages, with light traces of waterstaining, a rather beautifully produced book with engraved frontispiece and vignette title page. It's a little grubby in places, but a very good copy nevertheless. A collection of verses, usually rather dramatic (the whole book begins with an authorial plea to the goddess Kali, which rather sets the tone), dealing with pirates, ghostly apparitions and affairs of the heart, intended for the enjoyment of late Victorians loudly and enthusiastically reciting them in their parlours on stormy nights. The illustrations are by Nisbet himself, not only was he prolific he was also talented, and like most of his work the whole thing is permeated by that weird restlessness he never seemed to get rid of. Interesting man, scarce book.

[Ref: 920] £325

33. **Pain, Barry. *Stories and Interludes*.**

London: Henry & Co., 1892.

First edition. 8vo. Publisher's deep red cloth titled in gilt to spine and front board. Minor fraying to head and tail of spine, slight edgewear, a handsome copy. Internally clean. A collection of short stories, with fantastical or weird content.

[Ref: 869] £100

34. **Radcliffe, Ann. *The Mysteries of Udolpho* [with], *The Italian*, [with] *The Castles of Athlin and Dunbayne*.**

London: J. Limbird, 1831, 1828, 1830.

Illustrated reprint editions. Three volumes bound as one. 8vo. (327pp; 189pp; 44pp). Bound in 20th century half tan calf over marbled boards, titled in gilt to spine. Very slight rubbing and scuffing here and there, clean, sharp and strong, a very handsome sammelband. Internally clean and fresh, some spotting and browning in places, otherwise remarkably considering the

pace at which Limbird pushed out such works. A very good little handful of works by the woman who brought the gothic up to a whole new level, sparked a literary revolution in great shades, and lived a life of seclusion and near anonymity (we can tell this because most contemporary biographical fragments concentrate on the fact that she was apparently hot, and bit strange...which is what men write when they don't have any actual information). Also possibly a quite early recipient of the honour of being made a character in her own piece of pop culture fiction; "City of Vampires; The Incredible Adventure of Mrs. Anne Radcliffe." being published in 1875. I need a copy of this book. Important and handsome (two words that will never be applied to this cataloguer).

[Ref: 937] £275

35. **Roche, Regina Maria. Contrast, A Novel.**

New York: J & J Harper, 1828.

First American Edition. Two vols. 8vo. 268pp., 252pp. + 4pp. ads. Bound in original publisher's cloth backed boards, yellow paper printed title labels to spines, edges untrimmed. General scuffing and edgewear, with some minor surface loss, title label of Vol. II has some loss. Vol. II appears to be lacking a preliminary blank. Internally clean, some minor browning, a very good copy indeed in original boards with deliciously untrimmed pages, something which never fails to fill me with delight. Ink ownership to title pages. An elusive novel from the bestselling author of "The Children of The Abbey" (which was right up there with "Udolpho"), too often described as one of Anne Radcliffe's rivals, Regina Maria Roche was a highly successful gothic novelist in her own right. She fell foul of an unscrupulous financial adviser (something that happened to a number of 19th century lady novelists, I should imagine) and fell into financial distress, this caused her to return to rural Ireland where she remained, she continued to write whilst never regaining her prior fame, and succumbed to bouts of depression and despair (which is itself, whilst undeniably sad, also pretty hardcore gothic). Like a number of women writers of the time she is currently being revisited from the perspective of gender issues and keen social observation rather than how happy she made Walpole fanboys. Scarce.

[Ref: 1014] £750

36. **Salmon, A. L. Ferry of Souls.**

London: Foulis & Co., 1927.

First edition. 8vo. Publisher's wildly marbled boards with yellow cloth spine, slightly toned here and there but very good indeed. Internally clean, a handsome copy (with the scarce Foulis promo leaflet laid in). Inscribed by the author to front flyleaf:

"Maurice Wollman, with best wishes from Arthur L. Salmon"

A scarce little collection of chilling and weird tales, covering a number of the required bases (remote hauntings, werewolves, the usual), the only inscribed copy I have handled.

[Ref: 828] £350

37. **Sanderson, Ivan T. Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life.** The Story of Subhumans on Five Continents, From the Early Ice Age until Today..

Philadelphia: Chilton Co., 1961.

Pre-publication copy of the first edition, unusual in that it is bound and dustwrapped as a first, the only difference being it is bound in blue cloth rather than the grey. A very good copy, minor edgewear here and there, a spot of soiling, in a very good dustwrapper with tape reinforcement to verso and some attendant chipping and scuffing. Very good, strong and handsome. Inscribed by the author to the front flyleaf to "Why Von, Wizard of Osman from

'That Fellow' Ivan. Blairstown New Jersey 12/7/61... Pre-publication copy WITHOUT Index.
'Academically quite unacceptable' [Dr. Carleton Coon on the Author"]

"Why-Von" is W.C. Osman Hill of the Zoological Society, London Zoo and a number of other institutions, the most respected primatologist of his age (Dr. Jane Goodall studied under him in the late 50's), and exploratory cryptozoologist). A fantastic association.

[Ref: 826] £300

38. **Shiel, M.P. Prince Zaleski.**

London: John Lane, 1895.

8vo. 163pp. + 24 pages of ads in two booklets, because John Lane wouldn't want you to run out of books. Bound in publisher's vivid purple cloth, titled and decorated in white and gilt to spine and boards, decorations courtesy of Aubrey "So pale and interesting I make Keats look like an Australian rugby player" Beardsley. Faded to spine and with some sunning to extremities, which is what you get when your fin-de-siecle sensibilities are so keenly developed they drive you to bind books in delicate purple cloth; I am reasonably certain that the publisher in question could have turned his head slightly to the left, taken in the appearance of his first edition of *The Moonstone*, nestled next to Darwin's *Cultivation of Orchids* and thought "Hmm, maybe we'll go with a nice navy blue, perhaps mauve is not the way!" Unfortunately it was not to be, which is why title number VII in the beautiful and aesthetically pleasing Keynotes Series is usually found looking like it has recently been on a journey to the heart of the sun. This copy is better than most, strong tight and handsome despite the fading, a very good copy. Internally clean, light offsetting to the flyleaf and a couple of pencil notes to the effect that this is Queen's Quorum 19...and the word "bedroom" which considering both Shiel, Beardsley and indeed their target audiences could be anything from an imperative, to a reminder where they left the opium.

A much sought after collection of tales featuring the exorbitantly jaded Count, lurking in his mansion occasionally dragging himself away from the hashish for long enough to solve a mystery or two from the comfort of his ottoman. Awesome, despite the fact that M.P. Shiel himself was apparently a rather vile walking cyst of a man who wrote the odd good book.

[Ref: 969] £375

39. **Sprigg, C. St. John [Ed.]. Uncanny Stories.**

London: Thomas Nelson, 1936.

First edition. Small 8vo. 404pp. Publisher's pale green cloth titled in gilt, a little rubbed and discoloured here and there, but a tight, handsome copy in, of all things, a dustjacket! Some minor chips and tears to the extremities, but a bright, clean and fresh example. It bears repeating that Nelson Classics are lovely little books, and you don't see them in dustjackets often enough. This volume, which contains "Green Tea" by Le Fanu, "The Beast With Five Fingers" by Harvey, and "Space" by John Buchan amongst others, has the additional allure of having been edited by Christopher St. John Sprigg, creator of the Charles Venables murder mysteries, avowed marxist, and fascinated observer of altered states upon human psychology. Had he lived he would most likely have produced a fascinating body of work, but instead he joined the British Battalion of the International Brigade and died at the Battle of Jarama River on February 12th 1937, killed by fascists whilst covering the retreat of his battalion with a machine gun. He was 29 years old. Fighting fascists is a requirement of basic humanity, I get that, but once in a while I'd like it not to involve the deaths of the young and the blisteringly smart, and instead clear out some of the old and viciously stupid people who repeatedly espouse it.

[Ref: 951] £60

40. **Stapledon, Olaf. Last and First Men.**

London: Methuen and Co., 1931.

Stated 2nd edition (also catalogued as 2nd Impression with 12/30 ads catalogue), publisher's blue cloth titled and ruled in gilt. A very good, clean copy in a slightly frayed and worn dustwrapper with some areas of minor loss to extremities. Tape residue to flyleaves. internally clean. Nevertheless a scarce and influential book in any form, this copy from the library of the late Richard Dalby, bibliographer and high weirdness collector extraordinaire.

[Ref: 821] £300

41. **Walter, Elizabeth. Snowfall, and Other Chilling Events.**

London: Harvill Press, 1965.

First edition. 8vo. 191pp. A very good copy indeed in publisher's blue cloth titled in gilt to spine, in a very good ductjacket, some minor light soiling, clean, sharp and bright. A very pretty copy. Internally clean and fresh. A review copy sent to L.P. Hartley with a letter to Hartley from Collins laid in at the front. Also present are the index cards of noted collector Richard Dalby. A collection of 5 rather excellent stories including "The Tibetan Box", the author's first published collection.

[Ref: 984] £75

42. **WARDEN, Florence [Florence Alice Price James]. The Disappearance of Nigel Blair.**

London : Ward Lock & Co., Limited, 1911.

Octavo. First edition. Publisher's dark green cloth boards, geometric pattern stamped across both boards and spine, title in gilt to front and spine. Spine ends a little bumped as are board corners, however still remarkably handsome condition. Full colour frontispiece inlaid.

Endpapers are toned, light spotting throughout, however still bright and clean. An very good copy indeed. A rather pleasing mystery, involving a young man with a habit of going missing for extended periods of time with no explanation, and the obligatory mysterious stranger.

One of upwards of 100 works penned by Mrs. Florence James, smart, prolific and light on her feet with a plot, now I'd probably have to walk 5 miles through the centre of London asking everybody until I found someone who'd heard of her.

[Ref: 901] £150