

Tasting Menu of Rare Books from Crawford Doyle

From: Crawford Doyle Booksellers

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To: editor@abaa.org



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Everyone has different tastes when it comes to books. Consider the 14 books below. Most appeal to dissimilar tastes. Take a look and if you're interested in acquiring one for your collection, call us at 212 289 2345 or send us an Email at cdrarebooks@gmail.com

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (\$350 - Signed)

A heart-warming and exciting WWII story about a blind French girl active in the Resistance and a German boy with a penchant for radios, serving in the Wehrmacht. The pace of the story, the beauty of the author's writing, and the personality of the girl, Marie-Laure, combined to make All the Light We

Cannot See a highlight of the season when it appeared. Cited by *The New York Times* as among the 10 Best Books of 2014, it went on to win the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the 2015 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Anthony Doerr has signed this copy on the title page.

New York: Scribner, 2014. First Edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed blue cloth and paper-backed boards in a fine, pictorial dustwrapper featuring the French city of Saint-Malo during WWII. The book and jacket are flawless, the book unread.

American Pastoral by Philip Roth (\$600 - Signed)

A successful Jewish-American businessman and former high school star athlete from Newark, New Jersey, finds his conventional and happy upper middle class life destroyed when his teenage daughter sets off a bomb in protest against American involvement in the Vietnam War, killing a bystander. Many consider *American Pastoral* to be Roth's best book. It was awarded the *Pulitzer Prize* for Fiction in 1998. It was the first in the author's *American Trilogy*, followed by *I Married a Communist* and *The Human Stain*. Roth has signed this copy on the title page.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997. First Edition. A mint copy in black cloth and paper boards with gilt spine lettering in a mint pictorial dustwrapper. The book appears unread.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas by Hunter S. Thompson; Illustrations by Ralph Steadman (\$500)

This famed 70's novel, rooted in autobiographical incidents, follows its protagonist, Raoul Duke, and his attorney, Dr. Gonzo, as they descend on Las Vegas to chase the American Dream through a drug-induced haze. The novel first appeared as a two-part series in *Rolling Stone* magazine in 1971 and has become a cult classic, the prototype of "Gonzo journalism". Christopher Lehmann-Haupt advised *New York Times* readers not to read it, saying "what goes on in these pages make[s] Lenny Bruce seem angelic."

But readers flocked to the novel and changed the tenets of journalism.

New York: Random House, 1971. Subtitled: *A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream*. First edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed black cloth and gray boards with silver spine lettering and the image of the author blind-stamped on the front panel, with almost none of the characteristic fading at the edges--tight, square and unmarked. The dustwrapper is near-fine with slight toning to the spine.

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt (Signed, \$250)

The popular novel told in the first person by a boy who, at the age of 13, survives a terrorist bombing at an art museum in which his beloved mother dies. Staggering out through the debris, he takes with him the world-famous painting of *The Goldfinch*, which will serve as a singular source of hope as he descends into a world of confusion and crime.

The author has signed the publisher's tipped-

in sheet with a reproduction of Carel Fabritius' *Goldfinch*. The book won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2014. It has proved as popular as Tartt's earlier blockbuster, *The Secret History*.

New York: Little Brown, 2013. First Edition. A fine copy in white boards with black lettering to the spine and front panel in a fine pictorial dustwrapper with two tiny marks on the spine, otherwise fine, and without the Pulitzer sticker applied to subsequent printings.

Living Well Is The Best Revenge by Calvin Tomkins (\$150)

It was 1921. Gerald Murphy and his wife, Sara, rich Americans living in Greenwich Village, were unhappy with life in New York. Prohibition had been in force for a year. Sara thought Americans were "stuffy and

bigoted". Gerald wanted to become a painter. So they moved to Paris, and then to the seaside town of Antibes on the Cote d'Azur. None of this was remarkable but the circle of friends they attracted were. There was Cole Porter (Gerald's friend from Yale), Pablo Picasso, Robert Benchley, Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley, Fernand Léger, Ernest Hemingway and Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, among others. Calvin Tomkins' account of the couple's lives amid these luminaries is the subject of this interesting book.

New York: Viking, 1971. First Edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed linen and green paper-backed boards in a fine pictorial dustwrapper with no discernible flaws. A substantial collection of snapshots from the Murphys' life in France is included. Portions of this book first appeared in *The New Yorker*.

Kew Gardens by Virginia Woolf [*Facsimile Copy*] Illustrations by Vanessa Bell (\$100)

Virginia Woolf's *Kew Gardens* helped to shape a new British literary landscape when it appeared in 1921. Her short story begins on a hot July day in Kew Gardens. As if she were filming the story, Woolf presents an impressionist world with snippets of conversation, wandering thoughts and sparks of color. Different characters appear and disappear, different locations emerge in the world-famous gardens. The author has abandoned the traditional narrative thread. Conservative critics did not know what to make of Woolf's unique style but the public greeted it with enthusiasm. In 1927, a limited edition of *Kew Gardens* with illustrations for the first time by Vanessa Bell, Woolf's sister, was published by Hogarth Press, owned by Woolf and her husband, Leonard Woolf. It is from this scarce edition that this facsimile copy originated.

London: Random House, 1999. A fine facsimile copy mimics the stiff boards of the Hogarth limited edition of 1927, illustrated by Bell. *Kew Gardens* was originally published as part of Woolf's book, *Monday or Tuesday*. Approximately 10 1/4" x 7 3/4", the covers are illustrated in blue, green and brown and the text decorations are in black and white. The book, printed in Germany, is in immaculate condition.

All Passions Spent by Vita Sackville-West; Illustrations by Trekkie Ritchie (\$300)

Of all the interesting and unique personalities in Britain's Bloomsbury group, Vita Sackville-West stood out. An accomplished poet, novelist, and garden designer (*Sissinghurst*), she was also a prolific letter writer and diarist who managed to combine a successful marriage to the diplomat Harold Nicolson

with a long-term love affair with Virginia Woolf, among others. In *All Passions Spent*, Sackville-West tells the story of a newly-widowed lady who escapes the sumptuous family home where she lived and supported her statesman husband for 70 years and moves to a tiny house in Hempstead where she finds a new freedom, new and strange friends, and a final escape from six overbearing children. The book was published by Virginia and Leonard Woolf's Hogarth Press and was illustrated by the well-known designer Trekkie Richie, who became Leonard Woolf's lover after the death of Virginia while still managing to maintain a happy life with her husband, Ian Parsons, an editor at Chatto & Windus, the publishing firm which eventually absorbed the Hogarth Press. Ritchie remained close to Woolf from 1941 until his death in 1969, often spending the week with Leonard and the weekend with her husband. Complex relationships were a signature characteristic among the Bloomsbury crowd, to say the least.

London: Hogarth Press, 1931. First edition. A very good copy in light blue-green cloth lettered in gilt in a good, dustwrapper created by Richie with a mauve and purple design on cream paper and with several chips at the extremities, a closed tear at the top of the rear panel, and a 3" chip at the base of the spine, compromising the publisher's name. An inscription in 1937 in pencil from a previous owner is on the front endpaper with some notes in pencil on the rear endpaper. Scarce.

Play It Again, Sam by Woody Allen (\$300)

Is *Casablanca* your favorite film? Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall often appear in the ratings for their work in this tribute to lost love and the Allied cause in WW II. Woody Allen's third play, a wacky comedy paying homage to *Casablanca* but a great story in its own right, ran for more than a year on Broadway and helped build Allen's reputation as a performer who could portray a comedic romantic lead as well as the neurotic persona for which he was best known at the time. *Play It Again, Sam* was transformed in 1972 to a very funny film, directed by Herbert Ross and starring Allen, Diane Keaton and Tony Roberts. Several photographs from the play in which they performed are included in this volume.

New York: Random House, 1969. First Edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed black cloth and red paper-backed boards, with a little age toning to the endpapers and text, as usual, in a fine, price-clipped dustwrapper without fading of the red background or any other blemishes.

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison (\$650 - Signed)

This was Morrison's first novel. It is the story of an eleven-year-old girl, Pecola Breedlove - a black girl victimized by her father and driven mad by the death of a daughter. She fixates on blond, blue-eyed children and prays for her eyes to turn blue so she will be beautiful and attractive to others. This is the story of the nightmare of her life and the tragedy of its fulfillment. The violent nature of the book led to great controversy when it appeared and various efforts took place to ban it from school libraries. Morrison was the winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature. She has signed this copy on the title page.

New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1970. Second edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed yellow cloth and blue boards in a fine dustwrapper.

Pastoralia by George Saunders (\$200 - Signed)

Pastoralia is Saunders' second book, consisting of a novella and five short stories which first appeared, in somewhat different form, in *The New Yorker*. Saunders has been highly lauded since his first book appeared, *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*, and he recently won the Man Booker Prize for his first novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo*. The author has signed this copy with a signature and small cartoon on the title page

New York: Riverhead Books, 2000. First edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed black cloth and paper-covered boards with gilt spine lettering in a fine, pictorial dustwrapper.

Blindness by Henry Green (\$100)

Green's first novel, started while he was still at Eton and concluded at Oxford, signaled a great career for this leading British author. The true first edition of *Blindness* was published by J. M. Dent in 1926. This Hogarth edition fifty years later is a very nice representation of an author not as well known as he deserved. His real name was Henry Yorke. His Eton and Oxford friends were Evelyn Waugh and Anthony Powell. He wrote a series of astonishing novels, including *Party*

Going, Loving, Living, Concluding, and Back, and attracted a cult following. His books have recently been reissued by the *New York Review of Books*, always a sign of competence and obscurity. He stopped writing at the age of 47 because "I find it so exhausting now I simply can't do it any more." He lived another 21 years. The dialogue he created remains unique in British literature.

London: Hogarth, 1977. First edition thus. A fine copy in blue cloth with bright gilt spine lettering in a brilliant blue/coral/white flower design designed by Angelica Garnett. The book is pristine.

Going After Cacciato by Tim O'Brien (\$250)

Tim O'Brien is generally recognized as one of the eminent writers on the Vietnamese war. *Going After Cacciato* is thought to be his best book on the subject. It won the National Book Award for Fiction in 1979. O'Brien's story traces the events that ensue after Cacciato, a member of the narrator's army squad, decides to go AWOL by walking from Vietnam to France, through Asia. O'Brien's story-telling skills are impressive. Richard Freedman said this about the book in the *New York Times*: "By turns lurid and lyrical, '*Going After Cacciato*' combines a surface of realistic war reportage as fine as any in Michael Herr's recent '*Dispatches*' with a deeper feel -- perhaps possible only in fiction -- of the surrealistic effect war has on the daydreams and nightmares of the combatants."

New York: Delacorte Press, 1978. First edition. A fine copy bound in light blue cloth with gilt lettering in a near-fine, illustrated dustwrapper with a previous owner's bookplate on the front pastedown and slightly bumped spine ends.

Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann (\$75)

McCann's towering novel of the struggles of people from different walks of life coping with New York City in the Seventies. The Irish writer frames his story around two events: the sensational real-life feat of the Twin Towers tightrope walk by Philippe Petit 110 stories up, performed in 1974, and a fictional courtroom trial of a New York City prostitute. The talented McCann's most popular book.

New York: Random House, 2009. First edition. An As-new copy, unread, in white boards with gilt spine lettering in an As-new dustwrapper, illustrated with Philippe Petit tightrope walking between the Twin Towers. Winner of the 2009 National Book Award and the 2011 Dublin IMPAC Literary Award.

Padlocks and Girdles of Chastity by Anonymous **(\$75)**

An ex-priest named Alcide Bonneau was a lexicographer in Paris who worked on the *Grand Dictionary of Pierre Larousse*. In 1892, he also published this interesting historical and descriptive account of "Girdles of Virginité" and their use among the Greeks, Romans, and citizens of other nations, together with comments on some of the situations which developed after these instruments were employed. This copy was published for a limited subscription list of 645. It fails to acknowledge Bonneau as the author, calling the author "anonymous."

New York: Privately Printed, 1928. First Limited Edition, Copy No. 26, A small octavo in silver cloth spine over lavender boards with a near-fine slipcase. The boards are barely faded at the extremities, else a fine copy in a lightly-worn publisher's slipcase.

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