

A1 ALMAYER'S FOLLY 1895

A. *First English edition.*

(1) *First printing, domestic issue*

[in red] ALMAYER'S FOLLY | A Story of an | Eastern River | [in red] BY | [in red] Joseph Conrad | Qui de nous n'a eu sa terre | promise, son jour d'extase et | sa fin en exil? - AMIEL. | LONDON | [in red] T. FISHER UNWIN | PATERNOSTER SQUARE | MDCCCXCV

Collation: [1]⁸ 2-17⁸; pp. [1-6] 7-272; 202 x 123 mm.; printed on laid paper.

Contents: p. 1, half-title 'ALMAYER'S FOLLY'; p. 2, publisher's advertisement listing three titles by S. R. Crockett and one by John Oliver Hobbes; p. 3, title; p. 4, blank; p. 5, dedication to the memory of T. B. (Thaddeus Bobrowski); p. 6, blank; pp. 7-272, text; on p. 272, 'UNWIN BROTHERS, THE GRESHAM PRESS, CHILWORTH AND LONDON.'

Binding: Dark green vertically ribbed cloth. Spine stamped in gold '[within a single rule frame] ALMAYER'S | FOLLY | JOSEPH | CONRAD | [below the first frame, within a second single rule frame] T. FISHER UNWIN'. Top edge gilt, other edges untrimmed. White laid end-papers (watermarked 'Steven's' in some copies).

Copies examined:

(2) *First printing, colonial issue*

ALMAYER'S FOLLY | A STORY | OF AN EASTERN RIVER | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | Qui de nous n'a eu sa terre promise, son jour d'extase et i sa fin en exil? - AMIEL | COLONIAL EDITION | {bl}London{/bl} | T. FISHER UNWIN | PATERNOSTER SQUARE | MDCCCXCV

Collation: [1]⁸ 2-17⁸; pp. [1-6] 7-272; 194 x 122 mm.; printed on laid paper.

Contents: As in the domestic issue, above, except that p. 2 contains a publisher's advertisement listing four titles in Unwin's Colonial Library.

Binding: Green vertically ribbed cloth. Spine stamped in gold 'ALMAYER'S | FOLLY | JOSEPH CONRAD | UNWIN'S | COLONIAL | LIBRARY'. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers. Note: it is possible that copies of this issue were also bound in grey paper wrappers uniform with the *b* binding of *An Outcast of the Islands*: Colonial issue copies of the 1896 printing of *Almayer's Folly* have been seen in wrappers.

Copies examined:

Notes

First Printing: T. Fisher Unwin's records relating to the publication of Conrad's books have not survived.¹ In the absence of precise information we can only report the previous estimates of the size of the first printing of *Almayer's Folly*. Conrad, in a letter to Mme. Poradowska, 2 May 1895, gives the number of copies as 1100; Unwin wrote in *The Publishers' Circular*,² 9 August 1924, 'I expect the first edition of *Almayer's Folly* consisted of about 1000 copies. . .' and in 1927 is reported in an article in *The Bookman's Journal*³ to have informed W. C. Bell of Toronto that '1000 copies of *Almayer's Folly* were printed for England and 250 for the Colonial edition'; Wise states 2000 copies were printed.

The first printing was issued both in England and in the Unwin Colonial Library.QUIRES 2-17 of both issues are from a single printing, while the first quire, containing the differing title pages and advertisements, was separately printed

for each. Two states of page 110 have been noted: the first with type missing in the last two lines; the second with the type restored. Apparently, the dropped letters were detected late in the press run: of the twenty-eight copies of the first printing examined, only one (at Yale) has page 110 in the second state. All early presentation copies contain the first state.

Publication: Domestic issue on or about 29 April 1895 at 6s. Neither date nor price is available for the colonial issue. Wise, in his Conrad bibliography, states that *Almayer's Folly* was published 29 April 1895 and, in the absence of publisher's records and because this date is supported by other evidence, it has been accepted as our most reliable information. It is possible, however, an earlier date had been planned. Conrad, in a letter to Unwin, 12 March 1895, mentions 'the 18th' of March as the anticipated publication date though this certainly did not materialize. Paul Reynolds, acting in Conrad's behalf in New York, was instructed to have *Almayer's Folly* copy-righted in the United States no later than April 15th, an indication that may have been the target date at one point. Three presentation copies from Conrad to close friends contain inscriptions dated April 1895: to Jessie George (later Jessie Conrad) 21 April 1895; to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Noble, 24 April 1895; to Mr. and Mrs. G. F. W. Hope, April 1895: The book is noted in the *Sunday Times* (London) April 21st and reviewed in *The Scotsman* (Edinburgh) April 29th, but most reviews and notices (*Publishers' Circular*, 4 May 1895; *English Catalogue of Books*, May 1895) did not appear until May. The British Museum depository copy was received 3 May 1895.

Subsequent printings: A second printing of *Almayer's Folly* was made in 1895. Copies from this later printing may be distinguished from the original by the presence of colonial advertisements facing the domestic issue title page and by the thicker paper on which they are printed (first printing copies bulk 25 mm., second 30 mm.). The type missing in the last two lines of page 110 in the first printing is restored. There were two further printings in 1896, one on laid paper for domestic issue with the statement '*SECOND EDITION*' on the title page, and the other on wove paper for Unwin's Colonial Library with '*COLONIAL EDITION*' in place of the '*SECOND EDITION*' statement.

In the absence of publisher's records, the list of later printings of this edition can be only partly reconstructed. The plates were leased to Eveleigh Nash for their 1904 printing in "Nash's Collection of Popular Novels." According to the *English Catalogue of Books*, this was reprinted in 1905. The record of reprintings appearing on the title page versos of various Unwin reprints is unreliable, the information varying greatly from one list to another: The following later printings of the first English edition have been examined: London, Unwin, 1907, called second impression, London, Unwin [1914] in the "Adelphi Library" and called the fourth impression (with a cancel title page; a re-issue of the 1907 or possibly of a later printing); London, Unwin [1920] called the eighth impression; Toronto, McClelland & Stewart [1920] from the 1920 Unwin printing with Canadian issue prelims; London, Nash & Grayson, 1921; London, Unwin [1923] in "Unwin's Cabinet Library" and called the ninth impression; London, Unwin [1924] called the tenth impression; London, Unwin [1925] in "Unwin's Cabinet Library" and called the twelfth impression; London, Nash & Grayson [1927]. The book was reset for publication in Benn's "Essex Library" [1930] and though styled the sixteenth impression on the title page, it is actually a new edition.

B. First American edition

(1) First printing, pre-publication state

ALMAYER'S FOLLY | A STORY OF AN EASTERN RIVER | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | Qui de nous n'a eu sa terre promise, son | jour d'extase et sa fin en exil? - AMIEL: | {b1}New York{/b1} | MACMILLAN AND CO. | AND LONDON | 1895 | All rights reserved

Collation: B-S⁸ T⁶ (all signatures signed on the fourth leaf); pp. [I-VI] 1-276 [2]; 189 x 126 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i, half-title 'ALMAYER'S FOLLY'; p. ii, publisher's monogram; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'COPYRIGHT, 1895, | By MACMILLAN AND CO. | {bl}Norwood Press{/bl} | J. S. Cushing & Co. - Berwick & Smith. | Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.'; p. v, dedication to the memory of T. B. (Thaddeus Bobrowski); p. vi, blank; pp. 1-276, text; last two pages, blank.

Binding: Dark blue smooth cloth. Front cover stamped in gold '[within a double rule border] [thistle device enclosed within two concentric circles between which is: diamond] {bl}Almayer's Folly{/bl} [diamond] | {bl}Joseph Conrad{/bl} | [below the concentric circles: second thistle device]'; spine stamped in gold '[two rules] | {bl}Almayer's | Folly{/bl} | [short rule] | {bl}Conrad{/bl} | [thistle] | MACMILLAN & C° | [rule]'. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers.

Copies examined:

(2) *First printing, published state*

Title page as in the pre-publication state, above.

Collation: B-T⁸ (all signatures signed on the fourth leaf); pp. [I-VI] 1-276 [277-280] [2]; 189 x 126 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, pre-publication state, above, through page 276; pp. 277-79, publisher's advertisements; p. 280 and the last two pages, blank.

Binding: a. Dark blue smooth cloth. Front and back covers blind stamped with a double rule border; spine stamped in gold '[two rules] | {bl}Almayer's{/bl} | Folly | [short rule] | {bl}Conrad{/bl} | MACMILLAN & C° | [two rules]'. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers.

b. Dark blue or black smooth cloth. Stamping as in the a binding except that the publisher's name on the spine reads 'THE MACMILLAN | COMPANY'.

c. Black smooth cloth. Front and back covers blind stamped with a single rule border. Gold stamping on the spine as in the b binding.

Copies examined:

(3) *'Deep Sea' printing*

[within double rule] ALMAYER'S | FOLLY | A STORY OF AN | EASTERN RIVER | [double rule] | By JOSEPH CONRAD | Qui de nous n'a eu sa terre promise, son | jour d'extase et sa fin en exit? - AMIEL. | [book device] | GARDEN CITY NEW YORK | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | 1914

Collation: [A]² B-T⁸ [u]²; [I-X] 1-276 [277-282]; 180 x 118 mm. printed on wove paper.

Contents: pp. i-ii, blank; p. iii, half-title | [ship device]; p. iv, blank; p. v, title; p. vi, 'Copyright, 1895, by | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | All rights reserved, including that of translation into foreign languages, | including that of translation into foreign languages, | including the Scandinavian'; p. vii, '{bl}TO{/bl} THE MEMORY | OF | T.B.'; p. viii, blank; p. ix, second half-title; p. x, blank; pp. 1-276, text; p. 277, '[publisher's device] | THE COUNTRY LIFE PRESS | GARDEN CITY, N.Y.'; pp. 278-282, blank.

Binding: Dark blue limp leather. Front cover stamped in gold '[ship device over frame] ALMAYER'S | FOLLY | JOSEPH | CONRAD | [publisher's device]'. Spine stamped in gold '[ship device] | ALMAYER'S FOLLY | CONRAD | [device] | DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' All edges trimmed; top edge gilt. Decorative end-papers.

Copies examined: TxU TxLT (two copies, 1915)

Notes

First printing: Through New York literary agent Paul R. Reynolds, it was arranged that Macmillan would have *Almayer's Folly* printed and enter it for copyright in the United States on or before 15 April 1895. Macmillan was also to publish the book, paying a ten per cent royalty if the sale should reach five hundred copies. As this agreement is dated April 3rd and the completed copies, printed and bound, were deposited in the Library of Congress April 15th, the job must have been done with some haste. This explains the minor changes - the addition of publisher's advertisements to the last signature and a new binding - made between the date of copyright deposit and publication which occurred almost a month later.

It seems probable that instead of completing the entire press run for all the sheets, short runs were made for each so that the two copies required for copyright could be made up immediately. If this were so, it would have been a simple matter to add the publisher's advertisements to the last signature, reimposing the type for a normal quire of eight leaves, before continuing the printing. Before publication it was also decided to make the binding more appropriate by removing the thistle motif which must have seemed out of place on a tale of the south seas.

The first American edition of *Almayer's Folly* was set from uncorrected proofs sent by Unwin and varies substantially from the English text. Evidence for the size of the first printing is not available. Keating states 650 copies were printed, but his source is unknown. However, Macmillan's agreement with Reynolds, calling for a ten per cent royalty provided the book should sell five hundred copies, lends some credence to the 650 figure.

Publication: First Week of May, 1895 at \$1.25. The earliest advertisements for the American edition are in the 4 May 1895 issue of *Publishers' Weekly* in the following issue, 11 May 1895, it appears in the 'Weekly Record of New Publications,' and on May 12th it was reviewed in the *New York Times*.

Subsequent printings: Seventeen years elapsed between the first and second printings of the first American edition of *Almayer's Folly*. In 1912, the year which saw the beginning of an up-swing in Conrad's sales, Macmillan ordered a second printing at 1530 copies. In August 1914 Macmillan sold the rights along with the plates and 386 copies in stock to Doubleday, Page who used the plates for their first- printing of *Almayer's Folly* in 1915. A second Doubleday, Page printing from the first American edition plates was made in 1919, and a third followed in 1921.

C. Second American edition.

(1) First American printing

Published in volume I of the Doubleday, Page 'Sun-Dial Edition' of Conrad's works (see B1a, below).

(2) First English printing

Published in the Dent 'Uniform Edition' of Conrad's works (see B1b, Vol. I, below).

D. Second English edition.

Published in volume I of the Heinemann edition of Conrad's works (see B2, below).