

A6 THE INHERITORS 1901

A. *First American edition.*

(1) *First American printing, pre-publication state*

[*in orange*] THE | [*in orange*] INHERITORS | *An Extravagant Story* | By | JOSEPH CONRAD | & | FORD M. HUEFFER | [*in orange: thick-thin rule*] | "Sardanapalus builded seven cities in a day. | *Let us eat, drink and sleep, for to-morrow we die.*" | [*in orange: thin-thick rule*] | M<sup>c</sup>CLURE, PHILLIPS & C<sup>o</sup>. | [*in orange*] New York | MCMI

*Collation:* [1]<sup>4</sup> [2–21]<sup>8</sup> [22]<sup>2</sup>; pp. [2] [I–VI] 1–324; 189 x 129 mm.; printed on laid paper.

*Contents:* first two pages, blank; p. i, half-title 'THE INHERITORS'; p. ii, blank; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'Copyright, 1901, by | MCCLURE, PHILLIPS & CO. | The Trow Printing Company | New York'; p. v, dedication 'TO BOYS & CHRISTINA' [sic: 'BOYS']; p. vi, blank; pp. 1–324, text.

*Binding:* Beige smooth cloth. Front cover printed with an illustration, bordered in black, depicting a man and woman at the top of a hill with a view of Canterbury in the background; sky gold, town red and black, figures black. Within the frame of the illustration, at top, "[*within an ornamental square frame, partly in black and partly in cover cloth outlined in black*] T [*in red outlined in black*] THE INHERITORS'; within the frame of the illustration, at bottom, '[*in red outlined in black*] JOSEPH CONRAD & FORD M. HUEFFER'. Spine printed in black 'THE | INHERITORS | CONRAD | & | HUEFFER | MCCLURE | PHILLIPS | & CO.' Top edge trimmed, other edges untrimmed. White laid end-papers. Dust jacket of white wove paper printed in black, with repeat of cover illustration on front.

*Copies examined:*

(2) *First American printing, published state*

Title page as in the pre-publication state.

*Collation:* [1]<sup>4</sup> ({<sup>+</sup>}<sup>1</sup>4)<sup>8</sup> [2–21]<sup>2</sup> [22]; pp. [2] [I–VI] 1–324; 189 x 129 mm.; printed on laid paper.

*Contents:* As in the pre-publication state except that the dedication on p. v is corrected to read 'TO BORYS & CHRISTINA'.

*Binding:* a. As described under the pre-publication state.

b. As the a binding except that the sky in the illustration on the front cover is in cover cloth, not gold.

*Copies examined:*

*Note:* On 20 May 1901, Robert McClure wrote to Heinemann from the London office of S. S. McClure, 'I am sending you ten copies of [the American printing of] THE INHERITORS in which you are to insert cancel title pages, and I shall be glad if you will let me have two back – one for

Conrad and one for Hueffer.' Instead of cancelling the titles, each was rubber stamped in purple ink below the last line of the imprint '*London | William Heinemann*'. These copies, prepared for deposit to secure British copyright, are in the published state and the *a* binding.

(3) *English printing, first issue*

The Inheritors | *An Extravagant Story* | By | Joseph Conrad | and | Ford M. Hueffer | "*Sardanapalus builded seven cities in a day. | Let us eat, drink and sleep, for to-morrow we die*" | London | William Heinemann | 1901

*Collation:* [A]<sup>2</sup> B-U<sup>8</sup> V<sup>8</sup> W<sup>2</sup>; pp. [I-IV] 1–323 [324]; 189 x 127 mm.; printed on laid paper.

*Contents:* p. i, half-title 'The Inheritors'; p. ii, publisher's advertisement listing seventeen titles; p. iii, title; p. iv, '*This Edition enjoys copyright | in all countries signatory to | the Berne Treaty, and is not | to be imported into the United | States of America.*'; pp. 1–324, text; on p. 324, '[rule] | BILLING AND SONS, LTD., PRINTERS, GUILDFORD.'

*Binding:* *a.* Yellow smooth cloth. Front cover printed in black '[to the left: on a panel with a black ground, a figure with a winged wheel and eight coins, all in cover cloth with black outlines and highlights; to the right: within a single rule border joining the panel to the left]

*The | INHERITORS*'; pine printed in black

'[rule] | The | INHERITORS | JOSEPH | CONRAD | AND | FORD M. | HUEFFER | [*publisher's device with initials*] | HEINEMANN | [rule]'; back cover printed in black in the lower right corner with the publisher's monogram. Top edge untrimmed, other edges rough trimmed. White wove end-papers. Bound in at the end is a 32 page undated publisher's catalogue headed by Gilbert Parker's *The Lane That Had No Turning*.

*b.* As the *a* binding except that the top edge is trimmed and there is no publisher's catalogue.

*c.* As the *a* binding except the publisher's device on the spine is without initials and all edges are rough trimmed.

*Copies examined:*

*Note:* According to Keating, the dedication was accidentally omitted from the English printing and, when the error was discovered, the dedication leaf was printed and tipped into those copies not yet issued. However, it would appear that the additional leaf was inserted into only a few copies: of the twenty-three examined it is present in only four. One of these four is an undated presentation copy from Conrad to H. and E.L. Sanderson (at Yale). The Heinemann stock ledgers record neither an order to print the insert nor instructions to the binder to add it to copies on hand, an indication no large scale correction effort was made. Copies of the remainder issue (A6a(4), below) do not contain the dedication leaf. The collation for the copies with the dedication reads: [A]<sup>2</sup> X<sup>1</sup> B-U<sup>8</sup> V<sup>8</sup> W<sup>2</sup>; pp. [I-VI] 1–323 [324].

(4) *English printing, remainder issue*

Copies of the remainder issue agree with the description of the first issue except that they measure somewhat smaller, 183 x 125 mm., and are in a cheaper binding as follows: Yellow smooth cloth. Spine printed in black 'THE | INHERITORS | JOSEPH | CONRAD | AND | FORD M. | HUEFFER'. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers.

*Copies examined:**Notes*

*First printings:* On 28 February 1901 Conrad and Ford signed an agreement with William Heinemann for publication of *The Inheritors*. Shortly thereafter Robert McClure, manager of S. S. McClure's London office, obtained the American rights for the book. To secure American copyright it was necessary to have the book set in type and printed in the United States, so it was decided McClure, Phillips would furnish Heinemann with electroplates from the American setting for the English printing. The first American printing was completed early in May and ten copies of the bound book, along with the electroplates, were dispatched to London, arriving there about May 20th. An error in the dedication page in the American edition, misprinting 'BOYS' for 'BORYS', was detected after only a few copies had left the publisher's hands. In Keating's *A Conrad Memorial Library*, Ford states that S. S. McClure told Conrad only four copies escaped with the original dedication leaf uncanceled. Such figures are always questionable and, in the present case, copies of *The Inheritors* in the pre-publication state are known to survive in the Beinecke Library, the Lilly Library, the University of Texas Library, the private collection of Kenyon Law Starling, and the Library of Congress, the latter being the one remaining of the two depository copies.<sup>18</sup> However, the error was discovered and the cancel dedication leaf supplied before the advance copies were sent to Heinemann and, therefore, well ahead of publication. That the surviving Library of Congress depository copy, which was not sent out until two weeks after the copies sent to Heinemann, is in the pre-publication state indicates that, even after the error had been detected and cancellation begun, some copies escaped with the original dedication leaf uncanceled.

In the absence of records from McClure, Phillips, the size of the first American printing of *The Inheritors* remains unknown. Heinemann's records, however, provide the details of the English printing. After the electroplates arrived the first signature of the book, containing the preliminaries, was reset, signature designations were added, and the printer's imprint was added at the foot of page 324 replacing the page number. In resetting the preliminaries the dedication leaf was accidentally omitted (see note after A6a(3), above). On 29 May 1901 Heinemann ordered 1500 copies of *The Inheritors* printed by Billing and received these plus 'overs' of twenty copies in June. The sheets were sent to Burn and binding orders were issued as follows: 11 June, 1000 copies; 1 July, 150 copies; 25 July, 100 copies; 19 September, 100 copies. Of these 1350 copies all but 75 were received, bound, by the publisher before the end of the year. The 75 copies remained unbound until 23 July 1909 when forty were bound for stock. The other 35 plus 164 of the 170 copies for which no binding order yet had been issued were put in a remainder binding between 23 August and 16 December 1909 and sold to Mudies.

*Publication:* 23 May 1901 in the United States at \$1.50 and 26 June 1901 at 6s in Great Britain. In his letter to Heinemann, 20 May 1901, Robert McClure wrote:

{ex} Shall we fix Thursday the 23rd instant for the date of formal publication? If this is agreeable to you please let me have a line by return post so that I may cable New York tomorrow, giving them two or three days' advance notice. {stx}

The margin of the letter is noted 'agreed' and on May 23rd Heinemann deposited a copy of the book in the British Museum. On the same day, McClure, Phillips deposited two copies of the American printing in the Library of Congress. *The Inheritors* was advertised in *Publishers' Weekly* May 25th and listed there, among the new publications, June 8th. It was reviewed in *Outlook* (New York) June 22nd. The Heinemann printing was noted in the *Westminster Gazette* June 25th and reviewed in *Outlook* (London) June 29th.

*Subsequent printings:* Doubleday, Page obtained the McClure, Phillips plates for *The Inheritors* when they took over the book publishing end of S. S. McClure's business in 1908. However, it was not until 1914, after the commercial success of *Chance*, that the first Doubleday, Page printing of the book was made. Another printing followed in 1920 after which the plates were destroyed. The book was not reprinted in England from the first edition typesetting.

*B. Second American edition.*

*(1) First American printing*

Published in volume VIII 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. VIIIb., below).

*C. First English edition.*

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