

A7 YOUTH 1902

A. First English edition.

(1) First printing, domestic issue

YOUTH: A NARRATIVE | AND | TWO OTHER STORIES | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | ”. . .
*But the Dwarf answered: No; something | human is dearer to me than the wealth of all
the | world.*” – GRIMM’S TALES. | WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS | EDINBURGH AND
LONDON | MCMII | All Rights reserved

Collation: π^4 [A]⁸ B-Z⁸ 2A⁴; pp. [i-viii] [1-3] 4-375 [376]; 190 x 127 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i, half-title ‘YOUTH: A NARRATIVE’; p. ii, list of five works by Conrad plus one collaboration with Ford; p. iii, title; p. iv, blank; p. v, dedication to Conrad’s wife; p. vi, blank; p. vii, ‘CONTENTS.’; p. viii, blank; p. 1, ‘YOUTH | A NARRATIVE’; p. 2, blank; pp. 3-375, text; on p. 375, ‘PRINTED BY WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS.’; p. 376, blank.

Binding: Varying shades of light green smooth cloth. Front cover printed in black ‘[within a three rule frame half enclosed to the left in a floral scroll] YOUTH | [below the frame] CONRAD [flower]’; spine stamped in gold and printed in black ‘YOUTH | [in black: floral design] | CONRAD | W^M. BLACKWOOD & SONS | EDINBURGH & LONDON’. All edges trimmed. White wove or white laid end-papers. Bound in at the end is a 32 page publisher’s catalogue dated at the foot of p. 32 ‘10 / 02’ or ‘11 / 02’.

Copies examined:

(2) First printing, colonial issue

[no copy located]

Notes

First printings: Unlike *Lord Jim*, for which Blackwood ordered separate domestic and colonial printings, copies of *Youth* from the same printing were issued in both the English and overseas markets. The first printing, of 3150 copies, was completed late in October 1902 with the first bound copies reaching the publisher early in November. A second printing of 1050 copies was called for in February 1903 (title page states ‘SECOND IMPRESSION’ and is dated ‘MCMIII’). Blackwood’s account ledgers record costs on a half yearly basis, entries normally having been made at the end of June and the end of December. However, no costs were entered for *Youth*, which was published late in the year, until 30 June 1903, after completion of the second printing. Though printer’s charges for the first and second printings are separately entered, binder’s charges for the two are merged. The ledger shows that, on 30 June 1903, of the 4200 copies from the first two printings, 3124 had been bound for domestic issue, 725 for colonial issue (400 in cloth and 325 in paper wrappers), and 343 copies remained in unbound sheets. Eight copies are noted as ‘sold’, apparently in sheets. While it is not possible to establish from this what portion of the 725 colonial copies were from each printing, it is probable that, as both issues were published in November 1902, most of them would have been from the first. By 31 December 1906 the remaining copies in sheets had been bound, 268 for domestic and 75 for colonial issue.

Conrad's initial hopes for the book were high. On 26 November 1902 he wrote to Pinker, "The *Youth* vol: has come out on the 17th inst: [in fact, publication was on the 13th in Edinburgh though Conrad did not receive a copy until the 17th] The subscription before pub^{on} was roughly 1400 copies." Then on 5 January 1903 he again wrote to Pinker about *Youth*, "The West End booksellers are satisfied. I have had reports as to that from several sources. Last Saturday only, a friend going into Bumpus's saw piles of the book on the counter. B'woods wrote to me on N Year's day that it is selling 'very well' . . . Naturally we cannot expect a fortune out of *Youth*. Mudie and Smith have not yet been captured; but a beginning has been made with the 'trade' and I look upon my position as distinctly improved." But *Youth* was not destined to catch the popular market: it took five years to sell out the 4200 copies from the first two printings.

Publication: Domestic issue, 13 November 1902 at 6s. The colonial issue was published the same day at 2s. cloth and 1s. 6d. in paper wrappers. The depository copy in the National Library of Scotland was received on 15 November. Jessie Conrad's copy was inscribed to her 17 November 1902 (Beinecke Library, Yale University). Notices of publication appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* and other papers 19 November, with the earliest reviews following in the *Daily Chronicle* (London) 20 November, *T.P.'s Weekly* 28 November, *The Spectator* 29 November (by Sir Hugh Clifford), and in the *Academy* 6 December (by Edward Garnett).

Subsequent printings: By 31 December 1907, Blackwood had on hand only 29 copies of *Youth* in the domestic and 63 in the colonial binding, but, as sales had all but stopped, a third printing was not ordered until November 1909 at which time 525 copies were run so the book would not go out of print. No new printing was called for until June 1919 when 15,750 copies were run for publication in a two shilling printing, styled '*POPULAR EDITION*' on the title page. Another printing of 15,750 copies in this format followed in January 1922. This was the last during Conrad's lifetime. Blackwood reprinted the book four more times in the two shilling and four times in a three shilling six pence format before resetting it in December 1947 for a printing of 15,000 copies published in 1948 at six shillings.

B. First American edition.

First printing

YOUTH | *And Two Other Stories* | By | JOSEPH CONRAD | *Author of "The Children of the Sea," "Lord Jim," "Typhoon,"* | &c., &c. | [acorn] | [publisher's device] | [rule] | ". . . But the Dwarf answered: No; | something human is dearer to me than the | wealth of all the world." GRIMM'S TALES. | [rule] | MCCLURE, PHILLIPS & CO. | NEW YORK | 1903

Collation: [1]⁴ [2–25]⁸; pp. [i–viii] [1–2] 3–381 [382] [2]; 190 x 129 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i, half-title 'YOUTH'; p. ii, blank; pp. iii, title; p. iv, 'COPYRIGHT, 1903, BY | MCCLURE, PHILLIPS & CO. | COPYRIGHT, 1899, BY S. S. MCCLURE COMPANY | Published, February, 1903, R'; p. v, dedication to Conrad's wife; p. vi, blank; p. vii, '*CONTENTS*'; p. viii, blank; p. 1, sectional title 'YOUTH: A NARRATIVE'; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–381, text; p. 382 and the last two pages, blank.

Binding: Light green smooth cloth. Front cover stamped in gold '[within a blind stamped single rule border] YOUTH | [blind stamped rule] | [blind stamped panel with a pattern representing waves] | [blind stamped rule] | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold

‘YOUTH | JOSEPH | CONRAD | M^cCLURE | PHILLIPS | & CO.’ Top edge trimmed, other edges untrimmed. White wove end-papers.

Copies examined:

Notes

First printing: Before publication of ‘Youth’ in *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine* in September 1898, Blackwood sent proofs of the story to S. S. McClure in New York so that he might secure American copyright and, if possible, dispose of American serial rights. The *Atlantic Monthly* agreed to take the story but, because McClure failed to secure the copyright before it appeared in *Blackwood’s*, ‘Youth’ was appropriated without payment by *Outlook* (New York) and was dropped by the *Atlantic*.

Proofs of ‘The Heart of Darkness’ followed after the first of the year and McClure entered the story for copyright 27 February 1899 under the title ‘A Heart of Darkness.’ However, it is unlikely McClure had the necessary copyright copies printed as none was deposited to complete copyright action. The story was serialized in *The Living Age* (Boston) between 16 June and 4 August 1899. The third story in the collection was not serialized in the United States. The text of the first American edition was set, not from the serial proofs, but from a new set of uncorrected proofs from the first English edition. Last minute corrections made by Conrad for the English edition were not incorporated into the American text even though several months elapsed between English and American publication. Because the fall season was already well advanced by the time copy arrived from Blackwood, *Youth* was held for McClure, Phillips’ spring list. Printing was completed in February and two copies were deposited in the Library of Congress 26 February 1903. The number of copies printed is not known.

Publication: 25 February 1903. The book was advertised in *Publishers’ Weekly* February 21st: ‘McClure, Phillips & Company’s first publication day this spring will be February 25 the. Two books on their list bear the stamp of a London success – “Youth,” by Joseph Conrad, author of “Lord Jim” . . .’ It is listed with the new books of the week in the March 7th *Publishers’ Weekly* but coded as a February publication and in the March 21st issue is listed with the fiction published in February.

Subsequent printings: A McClure, Phillips advertisement in *Publisher’s Weekly*, 7 March 1903, states that *Youth* was in a second edition (i.e., second printing) before publication, but no copy of the book has been located with the ‘Second Impression’ statement McClure, Phillips customarily added to second printings. The book was reprinted in 1905. On 30 November 1908 Doubleday, Page took over McClure’s book publishing interests and acquired the rights to *Youth* along with the first American edition plates. The plates were used for the first Doubleday, Page printing in 1912 and for further reprintings in 1913, 1916, 1918, and 1920 after which the ‘Sun-Dial Edition’ setting was used. At some time after 1915 the plates were rented to Grosset & Dunlap who used them for an undated reprint.

C. Second English edition, with an author’s note.

First printing

[within a single rule border] [within a single rule frame] JOSEPH CONRAD | [below the frame, rule] | [in orange] YOUTH | A NARRATIVE | AND TWO OTHER STORIES | [ship device] | ”. .
 . But the Dwarf answered: No; something | human is dearer to me than the wealth of all

the | world.” – *GRIMM’S TALES*. | LONDON & TORONTO | [*in orange*] J. M. DENT & SONS LTD. | PARIS: J. M. DENT ET FILS

Collation: [A]⁶ B-Z⁸ 2A¹⁰ (\$1 + 2A2 signed); pp. [i-vi] vii-x [xi-xii] [1] 2–370 [371–372]; 184 x 124 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i, half-title ‘YOUTH: A NARRATIVE’; p. i, list of five works by Conrad; p. iii, title; p. iv, ‘*Originally published in 1902 by Messrs. W. Blackwood & Sons. | First issue of this edition 1917.*’; p. v, dedication to Conrad’s wife, p. vi, blank; pp. vii-x, ‘AUTHOR’S NOTE’ signed ‘1917. J.C.’; p. xi, ‘CONTENTS’; p. xii, blank; pp. 1–370, text; on p. 370, ‘[*short rule*] | PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY RICHARD CLAY & SONS, LIMITED. | BRUNSWICK ST., STAMFORD ST., S.E., AND BUNGAY, SUFFOLK.’; pp. 371–372, publisher’s advertisements.

Binding: Light olive green vertically ribbed cloth. Front cover stamped in brown ‘[*within a series of four ornamental rules*] YOUTH | [*publisher’s device*] | Joseph Conrad’; spine stamped in brown and gold ‘[*in brown, two rules*] | [*in brown*] JOSEPH | [*in brown*] CONRAD | [*in brown, two broken rules with a shell and rope design*] | YOUTH | A | Narrative | & two other | Stories | [*in brown, publisher’s device*] | [*in brown*] J.M.Dent | [*in brown*] & Sons Ltd. | [*in brown, two rules*]’. All edges trimmed, top edge stained dark green (frequently faded to brown). White wove end-papers. Dust jacket of off-white wove paper printed in red and dark green, with a portrait of Conrad on the front.

Notes

First printing: The first printing of the second English edition of *Youth* consisted of 1500 copies, received from the printer 20 August 1917 and ordered bound between August 31st and 1 May 1918, all issued domestically. As in the case of the 1917 Dent edition of *Lord Jim*, there has been some regularization of punctuation. There also have been a few changes in wording which, probably, were introduced by Conrad.

Publication: The official publication date of this edition, as recorded in the Dent file copy, was 4 September 1917. However, the publisher’s stock ledgers show that copies of the book were not sent out until September 10th. The British Museum depository copy was received September 10th.

Subsequent printings: A second printing of 1500 copies of this edition was received from the printer the following year: 300 copies 21 November 1918 and 1200 copies 24 December 1918. These were bound between 21 May 1919 and 21 October 1920. The third printing, 1250 copies, followed 16 February 1922 and was bound between 2 June 1922 and 16 December 1924.

D. Second American edition.

(1) First American printing

Published as volume V 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. V, below).

E. Third English edition.

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