

A9 ROMANCE 1903

A. First English edition.

(1) First printing, for domestic issue

ROMANCE | A NOVEL | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | AND | FORD MADDOX
HUEFFER | LONDON | SMITH, ELDER & CO., 15, WATERLOO PLACE | 1903 | (*All rights reserved*)

Collation: [A]⁶ B-2G⁶ 2h-⁶; pp. [i-viii] [1] 2–463 [464–472],; 188 x 126mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i, half-title ‘ROMANCE’; p. ii, advertisement for *The Inheritors*; p. iii, title; p. iv, ‘PRINTED BY | WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED, | LONDON AND BECCLES.’; p. v, dedication to Elsie [Hueffer] and Jessie [Conrad]; p. vi, blank; p. vii, ‘CONTENTS.’; p. viii, blank; pp. 1–463, text; on p. 463, ‘[*short rule*] | PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED, LONDON AND BECCLES.’; p. 464, blank; pp. 465–472, publisher’s advertisements.

Binding: a: Blue smooth cloth. Front cover printed in white ‘[*within a frame consisting of a series of rules and rectangles forming two panels; first panel*] ROMANCE | : A NOVEL | [*second panel*] JOSEPH CONRAD | : : AND | FORD MADDOX | : HUEFFER’; spine stamped in gold ‘[*single rule rectangular box*] | [*within a single rule frame: two rules*] | ROMANCE | : A NOVEL | [*two rules*] | [*below the frame, single rule rectangular box*] | [*within a second single rule frame: two rules*] | JOSEPH CONRAD | : : AND | FORD MADDOX | : HUEFFER | [*two rules*] | [*below the second frame, single rule rectangular box*] I SMITH, ELDER & C^o’. Top and fore-edge trimmed; bottom edge rough trimmed. White wove end-papers.

Note: Before deciding on the blue cloth binding in which *Romance* was published, the trial bindings described below were submitted to the publisher and rejected. These copies were used for copyright deposit, one going to the Bodleian and the other to Trinity College, Dublin.

b. Trial binding. Brownish-red beaded cloth. Stamping as in the *a* binding except that the lettering on the front cover and the spine are stamped in gold and the panels and rules on the front cover and the spine are blind stamped.

c. Trial binding. Brownish-red smooth cloth. Stamping as in the *a* binding except that the front cover, printed in white in the *a* binding, is stamped in gold.

Copies examined:

(2) Second printing, for colonial issue

ROMANCE | A NOVEL | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | AND | FORD MADDOX
HUEFFER | AUTHORS OF | “THE INHERITORS: AN EXTRAVAGANT
STORY” | [*publisher's device*] | LONDON | GEORGE BELL & SONS | AND BOMBAY | 1903

Collation: [A]⁴ B-2G⁸; pp. [i-vii] [1] 2–463 [464]; 184 x 124 mm.; printed on wove paper of a considerably lighter weight than that used for the domestic printing (the domestic copies bulk 38 mm., the colonial 23 mm.).

Contents: p. i, half-title ‘Bell’s Indian and Colonial Library | [*rule*] | ROMANCE’; p. ii, blank; p. iii, title; p. iv, ‘*This Edition is intended for circulation only in India | and the British Colonies.*’; p. v, dedication to Elsie [Hueffer] and Jessie [Conrad]; p. vi, blank; p. vii, ‘CONTENTS.’; p. viii, blank; pp. 1–463, text; on p. 463, ‘[*short rule*] | PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED, LONDON AND BECCLES.’; p. 464, blank.

Binding: a. Cloth. No specimen seen, but presumably uniform with the other cloth bound Bell’s Indian and Colonial Library volumes, as described under the first English edition, colonial issue, of *Nostromo* (AIOa2, below).

b. Red wove paper wrappers. Front wrapper printed ‘[*within a single rule border*] BELL’S INDIAN & COLONIAL LIBRARY | [*within an ornamental frame, initialed C D at the base*] ROMANCE | A NOVEL | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | AND | FORD MADDOX HUEFFER | [*below the frame*] LONDON: GEORGE BELL & SONS’; spine printed ‘ROMANCE | A NOVEL | JOSEPH | CONRAD | AND | FORD MADDOX | HUEFFER | No. 521 | [*publisher’s device*] | LONDON | G. BELL & SONS’; outer back wrapper printed with publisher’s advertisements. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers, the front paste-down and the recto of the front free end-paper printed with a list of Bell’s ‘Foreign and Colonial Agents’, the verso of the front free end-paper and the back end-papers printed with publisher’s advertisements dated September 1903.

Copies examined:

Notes

First printing: Conrad wrote to Pinker 19 September 1900: “Your Letter found here my collaborator Mr. Ford M. Hueffer and this circumstance allows me to answer your proposal with the suggestion that you should take in hand a joint work of ours which is nearing completion. Whether this is what Constables want I don’t know but my meaning is that you should handle that stuff with a free hand: That is *serialize it* and arrange for book form.

“We could let you have 14 Chap^{rs} out of twenty the work contains, for a specimen. The rest shall be out of hand in Dec^{er} for certain. . . . I wish that in Am. you would give McClure the first chance. The title of the book is *Seraphina*; action in West Indies, Havana and England. . . .

“P.S. The serializing is *the important part.*”

But serializing *Seraphina*, or *Romance* as it was retitled in February 1902, was not easily done. Blackwood asked to see the manuscript in May 1901 but decided against it. McClure undertook to place the serial rights in the United States but his efforts were as fruitless as were Pinker’s in Britain. Apparently a common objection was the length of the work, according to Conrad’s estimate about 120,000 words, so Conrad wrote to Pinker that they were prepared “to reduce the whole affair considerably for purposes of serializing going to the point of taking out the whole last part and replacing it with one chapter ending the adventure of hero and heroine there and then in a manner perfectly effective and satisfactory.”

Three months later, in March 1902, Conrad again wrote to Pinker, this time proposing reductions at the beginning rather than the end of the book: “I am quite prepared to do what is required to *Romance*. At the same time a story of that sort can’t be all fat as it were. What I feel is that the matter at the beginning necessary to create the situation may be put in a more interesting way. Once the story is placed I would have more heart to handle the opening again. Also I take it that

from the moment Kemp is kidnapped the thing is satisfactory. It's what goes before that need be retouched for the serial? Is that so?"

Then, 26 November 1902, Conrad wrote again: "Are you pleased with the reduction of *Romance*? You ought to be. Pretty nearly half of the book is gone; but you must not think we broke it up stupidly. On the contrary it cost us some scheming and a lot of work: four days and one whole night. All that's likely to be most popular is preserved and embodied in a rational conception." However, in spite of all efforts, magazine editors on both sides of the Atlantic continued to refuse the book and in the end attempts to serialize it had to be abandoned and the manuscript released for book form publication.

No printing records from the firm of Smith, Elder have been located so exact information about the first printing of *Romance* is not available. Wise states 2000 copies were printed, but whether this figure includes the copies printed on lighter weight paper for George Bell he does not specify. It is probable that, as in the case of *Nostromo*, there were 2000 copies for the domestic market and an additional 1000 for the colonies and India.

Publication: On or about 23 October 1903 for domestic publication at 6 s., with colonial publication either simultaneous or slightly thereafter. The book is noted in several London newspapers October 21st and 22nd and was widely reviewed October 27th-30th. The British Museum depository copy was received October 27th.

Subsequent printings: A third printing of *Romance* (the second for domestic issue) was made before the end of the year and is easily recognized by the statement 'SECOND EDITION' on the title page. No further printing was made from the first English edition type setting.

Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd., acquired the rights to *Romance* and published the second English edition in July 1909 at 7s. This edition is reset, without revision, from the first English edition. It was reprinted in April 1918 and published at 1s. 6d. and again at the same price in April 1923. Later Nelson printings followed in 1929 and 1936. Only the Smith, Elder first English edition and the Nelson second English edition contain the correct text in the next to last sentence in the book. The phrase "the little heap of dust that is a life" became "the little heap of dust that is life" in the first American edition and that reading persists in all subsequent editions, English and American. In a copy of the first American edition now in the Beinecke Library at Yale University, Ford has corrected the text to read "a life".

B. First American edition.

First printing

ROMANCE | A NOVEL | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | AND | F. M. HUEFFER | ILLUSTRATED BY | CHARLES R. MACAULEY | [*publisher's device*] | *New York : McClure, Phillips & Co. : Mcmiv*

Collation: [1-28]⁸; pp. [i-x] [1-3] 4-428 [429-436] [2]; 191 x 130 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i, half-title 'ROMANCE'; p. ii, list of three works by Conrad; tipped in, frontispiece with tissue guard; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'Copyright, 1904 by | McCLURE PHILLIPS & CO. | Published, March, 1904'; p. v, dedication to Elise [Hueffer] and Jessie [Conrad]; p. vi, blank; p. vii, 'CONTENTS'; p. viii, blank; p. ix, 'LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS'; p. x, blank; p. 1, second half-title 'ROMANCE'; p. 2, blank; pp. 3-428, text; pp. 429-436, publisher's advertisements; last two pages, blank.

Illustrations: Eight half-tone plates printed in black on coated paper tipped in facing the title page and pages 34, 40, 166, 190, 208, 326, and 388.

Binding: Dark blue smooth cloth. Front cover stamped in gold 'ROMANCE | [*printed in grey: dolphin and anchor design in triplicate*] | JOSEPH CONRAD | AND | FORD M. HEUFFER'; spine stamped in gold 'ROMANCE | CONRAD | AND | HUEFFER | M^cCLURE | PHILLIPS | & CO.' Top edge trimmed, other edges untrimmed. White wove end-papers.

Copies examined:

Notes

First printing: In May 1902 Conrad wrote to Ford that J. B. Pinker had placed the American serial rights for *Romance* with McClure. By this date Pinker had almost the complete manuscript²³ and had made fair copies of it, one of which he sent to Robert McClure who forwarded it to his firm's New York office. Though S. S. McClure's attempts to find a buyer for the American serial rights were unsuccessful, they agreed to publish the book over their McClure, Phillips imprint. Whether the copy-text from which the American edition was set were a fair copy of the manuscript of later proofs from the Smith, Elder edition is not certain, but the texts of the two editions agree except for incidentals (largely Americanized spelling and altered punctuation) and occasional typographical errors.²⁴ Either because the copy-text for the last portion of the book arrived late, or because McClure, Phillips was late in getting the book set, the last week of October arrived with only something less than three fourths of the American edition in type. With English publication at hand, McClure, Phillips pulled proofs of what was set (to the end of the third paragraph on page 289 of their edition) and deposited two sets with the Library of Congress, 26 October 1903, to secure American copyright. A special title page was printed for the depository proofs: ROMANCE | A NOVEL | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | AND | FORD M. HUEFFER | [*publisher's device*] | NEW YORK | McCLURE, PHILLIPS & CO. | MCMIII

The copyright notice on the verso of this title page reads 'Copyright, 1903, by | McCLURE, PHILLIPS & CO. | Published, 1903'. Before the first printing was made, not only was the publication date corrected, but the copyright date was also, though erroneously, altered to 1904. This error was corrected and the 1903 copyright restored before the second printing.

It appears that delays, either in receiving the last part of the copy-text or in preparing the illustrations for the American edition, caused the book to miss the fall publishing season and to be held back until spring of 1904. A traveller's sample copy, now in the Lilly Library, contains the text through page 406 (omitting the final two signatures) and all eight half-tone plates, tipped in at random, but printed in sepia rather than black and without captions. This copy is in a trial binding of dark blue smooth cloth, the front cover printed in cream 'ROMANCE | [*in cream and brown: a panel with an illustration of a sailing ship*] | JOSEPH CONRAD | AND | FORD M. HUEFFER'; spine unlettered. The title page and top edge of the book are rubber stamped in red ink 'SAMPLE COPY. | Not to be Sold.'

Publication: On or about 26 April 1904. *Romance* was advertised in *Publishers' Weekly*, 19 March 1904, as 'ready about May 1st' and appears in the weekly list of new books in the same periodical on May 7th. The Library of Congress depository copies of the bound and complete book were received 26 April 1904.

Subsequent printings: McClure, Phillips reprinted *Romance* twice in 1904, identifying these later printings by the statement 'Second Impression' or 'Third Impression' on the verso of the title page. Doubleday, Page acquired the rights and plates for this book along with the others obtained from McClure, Phillips in 1908 but, apparently, did not reprint it until 1914 in which year there

where two printings, one for issue in the 'Deep Sea' format and the other for issue in cloth. The final printing from the first American edition setting was made in 1920.

C. Second American edition.

(1) First American printing

Published as volume VI 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. VI, below).

D. Third English edition.

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