

## A15 A PERSONAL RECORD

1912

*A. American copyright copies.*

SOME | [short rule] | REMINISCENCES | [rule] | By JOSEPH CONRAD | *orn: urn with leaves* | PAUL R. REYNOLDS | NEW YORK | 1908

*Collation:* [1]<sup>10</sup>; pp. [1–3] 4–20; 204 x 134 mm.; printed on laid paper.

*Contents:* p. 1, title; p. 2, 'COPYRIGHT | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD'; pp. 3–20, text of the first chapter, as published in the December 1908 issue of the *English Review*.

*Binding:* Coated yellow wove paper wrappers. Front wrapper printed with a repeat of the title page, but without the imprint. Inner front and inner and outer back wrappers, blank.

*Copies examined:**Notes*

To secure American copyright for *Some Reminiscences*, Pinker requested Paul R. Reynolds, the New York literary agent who had been handling the American serial rights to Conrad's stories since December 1904, to have printed the necessary copies and to register the work for American copyright. Copyright was entered in Conrad's name 27 November 1908 and on the same day two copies of the Reynolds pamphlet printing that portion of the text which appeared in the December 1908 issue of the *English Review* were deposited with the U. S. Copyright Division. Copyrighting only a portion of a work was not uncommon at this time: if a sufficient amount of a book were covered, it was effectively protected from unauthorized reprinting. Those parts of the text of *Some Reminiscences* which appeared in the January through June 1909 issues of the *English Review* were not copyrighted in the United States.

There is no record in the Reynolds files that they attempted to place the American serial rights and it is probable that copyright was sought only against future book publication in the United States. Nor do the Reynolds files record the number of copies of the pamphlet printed though there must have been at least three: the two depository copies, later transferred to the Library of Congress, and then lost, and a third copy which remained in the files of the Reynolds firm until 1938 when it went to Yale University to join the George Keating Conrad collection.

*B. First English edition.**(1) First printing, domestic issue*

SOME | REMINISCENCES | BY JOSEPH CONRAD | LONDON | EVELEIGH NASH | 1912

*Collation:* [A]<sup>8</sup> B-P<sup>8</sup>; pp. [1–6] 7–236 [237–240]; 196 x 134 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* pp. 1–2, blank; p. 3, half-title 'SOME | REMINISCENCES'; p. 4, list of ten works by Conrad' p. 5, title; p. 6, blank; pp. 7–23, 'A FAMILIAR PREFACE' signed 'J. C. K.'; p. 24, blank; pp. 25–237, text; p. 238, 'PRINTED BY | BALLANTYNE & COMANY LTD | TAVISTOCK STREET COVENT GARDEN | LONDON'; pp. 239–240, publisher's advertisements.

*Binding:* Dark blue beaded cloth. Front cover stamped in gold '[within a blind stamped double rule border] SOME REMINISCENCES | [floral design] | JOSEPH CONRAD | [triangular floral design]'; spine stamped in gold '[thick rule] | [double rule] | SOME | REMINISCENCES | JOSEPH | CONRAD | EVELEIGH NASH | [double rule] | [thick rule]'; back cover blind stamped with a double rule border. Top edge trimmed, other edges untrimmed. White wove end-papers. Dust wrapper of yellow wove paper printed in black, with a half-tone photograph of Conrad printed on the front.

*(2) First printing, colonial issue*

SOME | REMINISCENCES | By JOSEPH CONRAD | LONDON | EVELEIGH NASH | 1912

*Collation:* [A]<sup>8</sup> B-O<sup>8</sup> P<sup>8</sup>(-P8); pp. [1–6] 7–236 [237–238]; 195 x 127 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* As in the domestic issue, but ending at page 238.

*Binding:* Dark blue vertically ribbed cloth. Front cover blind stamped '[within a single rule border] SOME REMINISCENCES | [floral design] | JOSEPH CONRAD | [triangular floral design]'; spine stamped in gold '[thick rule] | [double rule] | SOME REMINISCENCES | JOSEPH | CONRAD | [device of George Bell & Sons stamped in blind] | G. BELL & SONS | [double rule] | [thick rule]'; back cover blind stamped with a single rule border. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers.

*Copies examined:*

#### *Notes*

*First printing:* No records from Eveleigh Nash have been discovered and so a number of facts about the printing history of *Some Reminiscences* remain speculative. The work was written at Ford Madox Ford's suggestion and published by him in the *English Review* between December 1908 and June 1909. That the book did not appear until 1912 possibly indicates a reluctance on the part of Conrad's regular publisher, Methuen at this time, to handle it. It may be that Ford suggested the book to Nash who, a few years before, had published two of his books, or Nash may have asked for it on the strength of his previous success with reprints of Conrad's early novels.

T. J. Wise, both in the Ashley Library catalogue and his *A Conrad Library*, describes a "first, privately printed, edition", the existence of which he explained in a letter printed in *Publishers' Weekly* 4 June 1927, in the following terms: 'What happened was this. The book was set up in type, and the first galley proofs, and then final revises were sent to the author. The latter were passed for press, and the work was made ready, but Conrad at the last moment decided to make still further amendments, and so ordered three or four copies struck off and forwarded to him. He received three such copies, not in sheets but bound as ordered. . . Whether an edition consists of three copies as in this case, or of three thousand copies, is not material. An edition is an edition whatever may be the number of copies of which it consists.' And, of course, whether first, second, or third revises, proofs are proofs. Any advance impressions made from a setting of type specifically for the author to make revisions or corrections are proofs whether delivered to the author in one copy or three and whether bound (here only in plain paper wrappers) or in sheets.

As Richard Curle noted in a letter to the American Art Galleries<sup>33</sup> at the time his Conrad collection was sold: "It was simply Nash's rule to send his authors such copies, and, therefore, he sent them to Conrad in the ordinary way, just as he would have done to any other author. They are only bound proofs of practically no bibliographical significance, and that is the truth."

With two minor exceptions,<sup>34</sup> the changes between these page proofs and the published book are in punctuation, hyphenation, or capitalization and are not the sort of amendments which would have required the printing of special proofs. The copies which Wise and Curle possessed, therefore, can only be regarded as sets of the regular page proofs of the Nash edition.

As the colonial copies do not have the Bell imprint on the title page, it is probable that arrangement for the colonial issue was made after printing was completed and that Bell purchased sheets from Nash, had these bound in a binding similar to the original but with their name on the spine, and sold these copies in their Indian and Colonial Library. It is possible that this unanticipated sale of sheets to Bell necessitated Nash's second printing. In the absence of publisher's records, the number of copies printed and the number issued by Bell in the colonial market is not known. Wise sets the number printed at 1000.

*Publication:* January 1912 at 5 s. for the domestic issue. Publication date of the colonial issue is not recorded. Most reviews in the English papers appeared from January 25th through mid-February. Jessie Conrad's copy, now in the Beincke Library, has Conrad's inscription to her dated January 1912.

*Subsequent printings:* The Nash edition of *Some Reminiscences* was reprinted only once, in April 1912, and for this printing the statement 'SECOND EDITION' was added to the title page. Copies sent to the depository libraries are from the second printing.

#### *C. First American edition, first printing*

A PERSONAL RECORD | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | [publisher's device] | HARPER & BROTHERS  
PUBLISHERS | NEW YORK AND LONDON | MCMXII

*Collation:* [1]<sup>8</sup> 2–14<sup>8</sup>; pp. [I–IV] 1–219 [220]; 225 x 136 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* p. i, title; p. ii, "COPYRIGHT, 1912, BY HARPER & BROTHERS | [short rule] | PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | PUBLISHED JANUARY, 1912"; p. iii, half-title 'A PERSONAL RECORD'; p. iv, blank; pp. 1–16, 'A FAMILAR PREFACE' signed 'J.C.K.'; pp. 17–220, text.

*Binding:* a. Blue smooth cloth. Front cover stamped in gold 'A PERSONAL RECORD | [two rules] | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold 'A | PERSONAL | RECORD | [leaf] | JOSEPH | CONRAD | HARPERS'. Top edge trimmed, other edges untrimmed. White wove end-papers.

b. Blue linen finish cloth. Front cover stamped in gold '[within a frame of two rules terminating at the base in a circular ship device, a gold panel with lettering in cover cloth] A PERSONAL | RECORD | [rule] | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold 'A | PERSONAL | RECORD | [rule] | JOSEPH | CONRAD | HARPERS'. All edges trimmed (185 x 125 mm.). White wove end-papers. Dust wrapper of wove light blue paper printed in gold and dark blue.

*Copies examined:*

#### *Notes*

*First printing:* The first American edition of *A Personal Record* was set from the uncorrected proofs of the Nash edition and consequently contains a number of textual variants from the English edition. A few examples among many will serve to illustrate the nature of these differences: Harper, p. 10 line 4, "one's breast", Nash, p. 16 line 1, "one's own breast"; Harper, p. 40 line 7 up, "one another", Nash, p. 49 line 14, "each other"; Harper, p. 76 line 2 up, "think not only", Nash, p. 86 line 3 up, "not only think"; Harper, p. 90 line 1 up, "tried to strip", Nash, p. 102 line 4, "tried their best to strip". A few typographical errors in the American edition further complicate the text: p. 14 line 9 up, "scorn and danger" for "scorn and anger"; p. 17 line 10, "over the docks" for "over the decks"; p. 27 line 9 up, "pity" for "piety". The title change from *Some Reminiscences* to *A Personal Record* was suggested by Harper. On 3 January 1912 Harper ordered 2500 copies of the book printed from plates. Printing was completed January 13th, and binding of the first 1000 copies was ordered immediately.

*Publication:* 19 January 1912 at \$1.25. Copyright was not entered until January 22nd on which date the two depository copies were received at the Library of Congress. Sales during 1912 totaled 1345 copies, to cover which an additional 500 copies were ordered bound that year. From 1913 through 1917 sales averaged 161 copies a year, with additional binding orders for from 100 to 250 copies each placed as needed. The *b* binding, uniform in style with the Doubleday, Page editions of Conrad's books, was used for 250 copies bound after 1 July 1916 and possibly for an additional 100 copies bound during 1917. This was part of an agreement between Harper and Doubleday, Page, announced in *Publishers' Weekly* in June 1916, under which the Harper Conrad titles were made available in the Doubleday, Page "Deep Sea" format after 1 July 1916. No doubt Harper believed the binding uniform with Conrad's other books would stimulate sales of *A Personal Record*.

*Subsequent Printings:* There were no further printings from the first American edition setting. However, in 1917 the book was reset in a heavier face type. Copies of this second American edition may be recognized easily: the title page is surrounded by a double rule border and the text ends on p. 229. This is a word for word resetting, incorporating even the typographical errors found in the first Harper edition. It is bound uniformly with the *a* binding of the original edition. Of the second edition 300 copies were printed in September 1917 and another 400 followed in 1921. It was allowed to go out of print in September 1923.

#### *D. Second American edition.*

[within a double rule border] A PERSONAL | RECORD | [double rule lines] | By JOSEPH CONRAD | [publisher's device: book] | GARDEN CITY NEW YORK | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | 1917

*Collation:* [1–13]<sup>8</sup> [14]<sup>6</sup>; pp. [i–iv] [1–2] 3–228 [229–232]; 180 x 113 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* p. i, half-title, [circular ship device]; p. ii, list of eighteen Conrad titles, plus two collaborations with Ford; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'Copyright, 1912, by | HARPER & BROTHERS | [rule line] | PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'; p. 1, second half-title, [circular ship device]; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–19, 'A Familiar Preface'; pp. 20–229, text; p. 230, '[circular device: building] | THE COUNTRY LIFE PRESS | GARDEN CITY, N.Y.'; pp. 231–32, blank.

*Binding:* Greenish blue limp leather. Front cover stamped in gold '[within an ornamental frame, a gold panel lettered in cover leather] A | PERSONAL | RECORD | JOSEPH | CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold '[ship] | [two rule lines] | A | PERSONAL | RECORD | CONRAD | [rule above scroll] | DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' All edges trimmed, top edge gilt. White wove end papers printed in blue-green and pink with a seascape.

*Copies examined:* TxLT

*E. First English edition with the later title.*

[within a border of three rules, the middle one of which breaks toward the center] A  
PERSONAL | RECORD | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | [leaves] | THOMAS NELSON & SONS, LTD. | LONDON,  
EDINBURGH, AND NEW YORK

*Collation:* [1]<sup>16</sup> 2–9<sup>16</sup>; pp. [1–5] 6–285 [256–288]; 155 x 102 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* p. 1, half-title 'A PERSONAL RECORD'; p. 2, publisher's advertisement listing forty-eight titles; tipped in, frontispiece; p. 3, title; p. 4, blank; pp. 5–25, 'A FAMILIAR PREACE' signed 'J.C.K.'; p. 26, blank, pp. 27–285, text; on p. 255, 'PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN'; p. 286, 'ESTABLISHED 1798 | [publisher's device] | T. NELSON | & SONS, LTD. | PRINTERS AND | PUBLISHERS'; pp. 287–288, publisher's advertisements.

*Illustrations:* Frontispiece half-tone portrait of Conrad printed on coated paper.

*Binding:* Light blue diced cloth. Front cover blind stamped with a single rule border; spine stamped in gold 'A | PERSONAL | RECORD | [leaf] | JOSEPH | CONRAD | [publisher's device] | NELSON'. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers printed in blue-green with the publisher's monogrammed within an ornamental frame. Dust wrapper of sized white paper printed in black and red.

*Copies examined:*

#### *Notes*

This, the second English edition of *A Personal Record*, was the first to appear under the later title. It was set directly from the Nash edition and has no textual importance and is included here only because of its possible interest to collectors. It was published in October 1916 at 1 s and later raised to {1 / 6}. The number of copies printed is not recorded.

*F. Third English edition, with a new preface.*

*(1) First printing, first issue*

[within a single rule border] [within a single rule frame] JOSEPH CONRAD | [below the frame, rule] | [in orange]  
A | [in orange] PERSONAL RECORD | [ship device] | LONDON & TORONTO | [in orange] J. M. DENT & SONS  
LTD. | PARIS: J. M. DENT ET FILS

*Collation:* <sup>8</sup> A-Q<sup>8</sup>; pp. [i-v] vi-xx [5] 6–256; 186 x 123 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* p. i, half-title 'A PERSONAL RECORD'; p. ii, record of previous editions of this work; p. iii, title; p. iv, blank; pp. v-xx, 'AUTHOR'S NOTE' signed 'J. C. | 1919.'; pp. 5–22, 'A FAMILIAR PREFACE' signed 'J. C. K.'; pp. 23–256, text; on p. 256, 'Printed in Great Britain by Butler & Tanner, Frome and London'.

*Binding:* Light olive green vertically ribbed cloth. Front cover stamped in brown '[within a series of four ornamental rules] A PERSONAL | RECORD | [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] | A | PERSONAL | RECORD | [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 olive green, with a portrait of Conrad on the front.

*(2) First printing, second issue:*

A | PERSONAL RECORD | by | JOSEPH CONRAD | London | J. M. DENT & SONS LTD.

*Collation:* π<sup>8</sup>(s5)2) A-Q<sup>8</sup>; pp. [i-v] vi-xx [5] 6–256; 186 x 123 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* As in the first issue except p. iv which reads 'All rights reserved | Printed in Great Britain | by The Temple Press Letchworth | for | J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd. | Aldine House Bedford St. London | Toronto. Vancouver | Melbourne . Wellington | First Published under the title of | 'Some Reminiscences' in 1912 | Published as 'A Personal Record' in 1916 | Re-issued at a Cheaper Price 1934'.

*Binding:* As in the first issue.

*Copies examined:**Notes*

*First printing:* The third English edition of *A Personal Record* was set from the Nash text but with punctuation regularized. Though Conrad contributed a new preface to this edition, there is no evidence this regularization is authorial. Indeed, considering Conrad's propensity for rewriting in proof, the absence of substantive changes is a good indication he did not read the proofs and that the alterations in punctuation should be attributed to Dent's editors.

A first printing of 2500 copies uniform in style with the other Conrad works Dent has republishing at this time was ordered and received 19 September 1919 and the first bound copies were available October 22nd. Sales proceeded slowly. The initial bindings of 500 copies in October and 200 in November satisfied demands for a year. For the next seven years binding orders were as follows: 1920, 300 copies; 1921, 300; 1922, 200; 1924, 200; 1926, 200. An additional 200 copies were bound in small lots through 1934 at which time the remaining 400 sets of unbound sheets were supplied with cancel titles and added to the stock of a new printing for issue at a cheaper price (for which see *Subsequent printings*, below).

*Publication:* 5 November 1919 at 6s 6d. The British Museum depository copy was received 31 October 1919.

*Subsequent printings:* With 400 sets of sheets from the 1919 printing still on hand in 1934, the publishers decided to reprint the book from this setting, which had been superseded in 1923 by the "Uniform Edition", and to issue this second printing with the remaining sheets of the first at the cheaper price of 3s 6d. Cancel titles were printed and supplied in the re-issue copies from the 1919 sheets. These cheaper copies were issued 18 January 1934.

*G. Third American edition.**(1) First American printing*

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

*(2) First English printing*

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

*H. Fourth English edition.*

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