

A13 A SET OF SIX 1908.

*A. First English edition.*

*(1) First printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state*

A SET OF SIX | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | *Les petites marionnettes* | Font, font, font | *Trois petits tours* | *Et puis s'en vont.* | *NURSERY RHYME.* | METHUEN & CO. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON

*Collation:* a<sup>2</sup> X<sup>2</sup> 1–19<sup>8</sup> 20<sup>4</sup>; pp. [i–vi] vii [viii] [1–2] 3–310 [311–312]; 18 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* p. i, half-title 'A SET OF SIX'; p. ii, list of ten works by Conrad plus the two collaborations with Ford in which lines 11 and 12 are printed 'THE SECRET AGENT (with Ford M. | Hueffer)'; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'First Published in 1908'; p. v, dedication to Miss M. H. M. Capes; p. vi, blank; p. vii, 'CONTENTS'; p. viii, blank; p. 1, sectional title 'A ROMANTIC TALE'; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–310, text; p. 311, blank; p. 312, 'EDINBURGH | COLSTON AND CO. LIMITED | PRINTERS'.

*Binding:* Salmon coloured smooth cloth. Front cover stamped in gold '[within blind stamped single rule border] [within a frame of rules and flower designs forming two panels; first panel] A SET OF SIX | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | [second panel] A ROMANTIC TALE | AN IRONIC TALE | AN INDIGNANT TALE | A DESPERATE TALE | A MILITARY TALE | A PATHETIC TALE'; spine stamped in gold '[within a frame of rules and flower designs] A SET | OF | SIX | [below the frame] BY | JOSEPH | CONRAD | METHUEN'. Top edge trimmed, fore edge rough trimmed, bottom edge untrimmed. White wove end-papers. Bound in at the end is a 40 page Publisher's catalogue dated June 1908. This is a trial binding, not used on published copies.

*(2) First printing, domestic issue, published state*

A SET OF SIX | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | *Les petites marionnettes* | Font, font, font, | *Trois petits tours* | *Et puis s'en vont.* | *NURSERY RHYME.* | METHUEN & CO. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON

*Collation:* a<sup>2</sup> X<sup>2</sup> 1–19<sup>8</sup> 20<sup>4</sup>; pp. [i–vi] vii [viii] [1–2] 3–310 [311–312]; 188 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper. Note: The point at which the error on a<sup>2</sup><sup>v</sup> was detected is not known. Therefore, it cannot be said how many or how few copies a cancel fold was required. For these copies the collation would be a<sup>2</sup>(<sup>+</sup>) X<sup>2</sup> 1–19<sup>8</sup> 20<sup>4</sup>.

*Contents:* As in the pre-publication state except p. ii, list of ten works by Conrad plus the two collaborations with Ford in which lines 11 and 12 are corrected to read 'THE SECRET AGENT | WITH FORD M. HUEFFER' to indicate that it is the two following works, *The Inheritors* and *Romance*, and not *The Secret Agent* in which Conrad and Ford collaborated.

*Binding:* Dark blue smooth cloth. Otherwise as in the trial binding described under the pre-publication copies except the front cover is printed in dark red, not stamped in gold, and the printing is toward the top rather than centered. The 40 page publisher's catalogue in the published copies is dated variously February, June, or August 1908.

*(3) First printing, colonial issue*

A SET OF SIX | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | *Les petites marionnettes* | Font, font font, | *Trois petits tours* | *Et puis s'en vont.* | *NURSERY RHYME.* | METHUEN & CO. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON | *Colonial Library*

*Collation:* a<sup>2</sup> X<sup>2</sup> 1–19<sup>8</sup> 20<sup>4</sup>; pp. [i–vi] vii [viii] [1–2] 3–310 [311–312]; 188 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* As in the domestic issue, published state, except the half-title reads '{bl}Methuen's Colonial Library{/bl}' | [rule] | A SET OF SIX'.

*Binding:* a. Dark blue diced cloth. Front cover blind stamped 'A SET | OF SIX | [short rule] | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold 'A SET | OF SIX | JOSEPH CONRAD | METHUEN'S | COLONIAL LIBRARY'. Top and fore edge trimmed, bottom edge untrimmed. White laid end-papers printed in black with Methuen Colonial Library advertisements. Bound in at the end is a 40 page publisher's catalogue dated June 1908.

b. Paper wrappers. [no copy located]

*Copies examined:**Notes*

*First printing:* Conrad had signed an agreement in March 1906 with Methuen for *The Mirror of the Sea* and five further books so when, in the fall of 1907, there were enough new Conrad stories to make up a volume, Pinker offered it as one of the books under the contract. It appears there was little enthusiasm on either side: Methuen preferred novels to volumes of stories and Conrad would have preferred another publisher who would have given him a larger advance and more publicity. Nevertheless, an agreement was concluded and by February 1908 the text of the stories for the new book was being assembled. Conrad wrote to Pinker:

"I've received with a note from Moore the text of all the short stories to be included in the next *vol.* My idea is that the *Black Mate* should *not* be included. I don't want to give up a line more than is necessary. The order of printing should be like this:

The Strong Man	4 ch.
The Anarchist	1 ch.
The Brute	1 ch.
The Informer	1 ch.
The Duel	4 ch.

A blank page between each story with ½ title. On second thoughts we may keep the last story out as there will be 80000 without it."

Setting the stories went forward without difficulty and in May the proofs reached Conrad who was busy writing "Razumov", the novel eventually published with the title *Under Western Eyes*, and not in a mood to concern himself with these earlier works. He wrote to Pinker, "The printer did send the MS of the *Set of Six*, but in pursuance of my resolve not to let my mind be distracted from Raz: I haven't looked at them – and won't till you let me know that it is absolutely necessary." Pinker evidently replied that it was absolutely necessary as Conrad remarked in his next letter "the necessity of correcting Methuen's proofs is an unpleasant surprise. I thought the Set of Six was to come out in Sept. or Oct." However, in spite of the grumbling, the proofs were read with the usual thoroughness and the last minute revisions were made as was Conrad's custom. Substantive textual variants between the serial and book forms of the stories are numerous in all six cases.

On 19 June 1908 Methuen ordered 2500 copies of *A Set of Six* printed and received the sheets for these plus twenty-four overs July 10th. As noted under the pre-publication state, above, an error was made in the list of the author's books facing the title page. Whether the error was detected during the course of printing and made right by a stop-press correction, or was not discovered until after printing was completed is not known. As the error was the printer's, it was not charged to the publisher and no record of printing cancels appears in the Methuen ledger. At whatever stage the error was detected, Colston reprinted the required number of conjugate title and half-title leaves and substituted these for the faulty ones.

The first binding order, for 1000 copies, was issued July 17th and ten days later, on the 27th, four bound copies were delivered to Methuen. It is likely these represent the rejected salmon cloth binding found on the pre-publication state copies.<sup>29</sup> The first substantial delivery, 350 bound copies, was made August 5th. On August 6th an additional 200 copies were ordered bound. Though all copies had been printed with domestic issue prelims, Methuen intended from the beginning to issue copies, as needed, for the colonial market. On July 3rd 1000 'colonial covers' had been ordered against the eventual issue of copies in colonial paper wrappers. Because the size of the colonial issue had not been determined before the printing order was given, the printers were instructed to impose the prelims so the title and half-title pages would be conjugate. This allowed the easy substitution of colonial title and half-title pages as required. On August 12th, 1000 of these latter were ordered and the binder was then instructed to bind 275 copies in colonial paper wrappers and 350 in colonial cloth. The balance of the first printing was ordered bound for domestic issue between August 15th and 26th.

*Publication:* The domestic issue was published 6 August 1908 at 6s and the colonial issue followed August 25th. As the first shipment of bound copies did not reach the publisher until August 5th, review copies did not go out before that day and reviews did not appear in the London papers before August 10th. The British Museum depository copy was received August 11th. Shortly after publication Conrad wrote to Pinker, 'The *Set of Six* is out and looks tolerably well as to get up,' and a few days later wrote, "I can't complain, certainly, of the reception of the *Set*. I even confess to astonishment at the notice taken of a mere *vol* of Short Stories."

*Subsequent printings:* A second printing of 1000 copies was ordered August 27th and a third of 500 copies followed October 9th. Of these, 150 copies from the second and 60 from the third were issued in the Colonial Library with the colonial titles and half-titles ordered August 12th. There are no known differences between colonial issue copies from the first three printings. A fourth printing of 250 copies, all issued domestically, was ordered December 5th. Moulds were then made and the type distributed. In July 1914 the moulds were transferred from Colston to Morrison and Gibb who made the stereotypes and ran a fifth printing of 250 copies in June 1915. The fifth printing was styled 'FOURTH EDITION' as had been the fourth printing, December 1908. The plates were later sent to Butler and Tanner for the sixth and final printing of 1000 copies in April 1920. The latter were issued some at 3s (in purple cloth stamped in gold) and some at 2s (in light green and light brown cloth printed in black).

*B. Second English edition.*

*(1) Foolscap version*

A SET OF SIX | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | *Les petits tours* | *Et puis s'en vont*. | NURSERY RHYME. | METHUEN & CO. LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET W. C. | LONDON

*Collation:* [I]<sup>16</sup> 2–18<sup>16</sup>; [1–8] 9 [10] 11–252 [253–56]; 165 x 112 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* pp. 2–3, Methuen advertisements; p. 4, title; p. 5, printing history for Methuen editions; p. 6, dedication to Miss M. H. M. Capes; pp. 7–8, blank; p. 9, table of contents; p. 10, blank; p. 11–252, text; p. 253, blank; p. 254, 'Printed in Great Britain | by Butler & Tanner, | Frome and London. [Note: pp. 1–2 and 255–56 have been ripped out of TXU copy].

*Binding:* Light brown net cloth. Front stamped in black '[two black boxes around border] A SET OF SIX | JOSEPH CONRAD'. Spine stamped in black 'A SET | OF SIX | JOSEPH | CONRAD | METHUEN'. Top edge trimmed, bottom and fore edge untrimmed.

*Copies examined:* TXU

*(2) Crown version*

Title page as in foolscap version except epigraph is in small caps and roman type.

*Collation:* [I]<sup>8</sup> 2–16<sup>8</sup>; everything else as in previous version.

*Contents:* as in previous version except p. 1, half-title 'A SET OF SIX'; p. 2, list of five other Conrad titles in this form.

*Binding:* TXU copy rebound.

*Copies examined:* TXU

Published November 1919, reset to 252 pages. Printed in cheaper format, 15,000 copies.

*C. First American edition of "The Duel".*

*(1) First printing*

THE POINT OF HONOR | A MILITARY TALE | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | AUTHOR OF LORD JIM, YOUTH, ETC. | [publisher's device] | ILLUSTRATIONS BY | DAN SAYRE GROESBECK | NEW YORK | THE McCLURE COMPANY | MCMVIII

*Collation:* [1–11]<sup>8</sup> [12]<sup>6</sup>; pp. [i–vi] [1–2] 3–182; 192 x 130 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* p. i, half-title 'THE POINT OF HONOR | A MILITARY TALE'; p. ii, blank; tipped in, frontispiece with tissue guard; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'Copyright 1908, by The McClure Company | Copyright, 1907, 1908, by Joseph Conrad'; p. v, 'LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS'; p. vi, blank; p. 1, second half-title 'THE POINT OF HONOR | A MILITARY TALE'; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–182, text.

*Illustrations:* Four coloured plates printed on coated paper, tipped in facing the title page and pages 14, 28, and 88.

*Binding: a.* First issue binding. Dark green smooth cloth. Front cover printed in white with an illustration representing two duelers and an oval frame enclosing, stamped in gold in fancy letters, 'The | Point | of | Honor | By | Joseph | Conrad' ; spine stamped in gold in fancy letters 'The | Point | of | Honor | By | Joseph | Conrad | McClure'. Top and fore edge trimmed, bottom edge rough trimmed. White wove end-papers. Dust wrapper of white wove paper with lettering printed in black and a coloured illustration (same as the frontispiece) printed on the front.

*b.* Second issue binding. Same as the *a* binding except the publisher's name on the spine reads 'DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' All edges trimmed.

*Copies examined:*

*Notes*

*First printing:* "The Duel" was written early in 1907 and sent to Pinker who sold English serial rights to the *Pall Mall Magazine* and sent a copy of the typescript to McClure to see if he could either run the story in *McClure's Magazine* or place it elsewhere in the U.S. McClure liked the story and proposed that he publish it as a separate small book. Pinker informed Conrad who replied, in September 1907, "As to *A Duel* I think that McClure's notion is not half bad. How would that move affect the chances of vol form publication *here* by the bye? Of course the vol of short stories in the States could not include that one. If the conditions they propose are good I should say: yes!" The agreements, when signed 5 March 1908, called for a fifteen percent royalty and included a ££ 50 advance. Conrad hoped Methuen might also publish the story separately and suggested to Pinker, "We have stuff for a vol of short stories without the *Duel*. In view of my request perhaps Meth: would like to publish it say in Jany. Surely we could get ££120 down for it – 60 for me and 60 for you." But nothing came of this proposal and English publication of "The Duel" came in Methuen's edition of *A Set of Six*.

By October proofs for the *Pall Mall Magazine* publication of the story were ready and, apparently, the editors had raised a question about the appropriateness of the title. Conrad wrote to Pinker: "As to the title, I have no invention for that sort of thing. Besides no other title would do so well to my mind the story being the story of a duel or at any rate a dueling story. The psychology of every single being in it hangs on the practice of dueling. Besides if I were to change it for the P.M.M. I would have to stick to it later on for the book form – and that would not please me at all.

"I defy any man to find a better title for a story, which is all duel and nothing but duel. There is in it to start with no feud, no quarrel, no rivalry. Whatever sentiments come into it they all flow out from duelling pure and simple – in all its naked absurdity I think the title must stand."

Several months later, in March 1908, the question of the title was raised again. Conrad asked Pinker: "What do you think of publishing the *Duel* in the States under the title *The Point of Honour*. or *An Affair of Honour* or simply *Honour: A Military Tale*."

"Duel seems commonplace. But of course let McClure decide."

Mary Bisland, of McClure's London office, forwarded these suggestions to New York and a few days later wrote again to the New York office, "I have another letter from Mr. Pinker telling me that Mr. Conrad wants to know if you do not think that the best title for the book, after all, is one that he originally thought of, viz, *The Masters of Europe: A Military Tale*." The eventual American title, "The Point of Honor, A Military Tale," was the publisher's composite from the above.

In October 1908 Conrad sent Pinker the complete corrected proofs of "The Duel" and wrote, "Do get the P.M.M. people to pull off *two corrected* sets of galley slips. One of them we could send to McClure presently. The other I would [word omitted] to keep by me for the time of book form publication here.

"But after all even one set would do. I would like to have it for a few days before it goes to America."

On 11 March 1908, Miss Bisland wrote to Cameron Mackenzie at the New York office, "I have just received a note from Mr. Pinker saying that Mr. Conrad does not need to revise copy of *A Duel*, and suggesting that you set for the book from the copy you have, only he hopes you will not omit to send him a proof." The copy to which Pinker referred was the *Pall Mall Magazine* proofs. However, in order to secure American copyright McClure had sent the *Pall Mall* proofs to the U.S. Copyright Office where they were received 18 December 1907, 18 January 1908, 18 February 1908, and 18 March 1908. (Records at the Copyright Office do not show that the fifth installment was deposited and it is likely that, with eighty percent of the book secure, it was not considered necessary to bother with the rest.) When it came time to set the book the only copy in McClure's office was the uncorrected typescript which Pinker had sent early in 1907.

When the first lot of proofs sent from McClure reached Conrad it appeared to him his instructions had been ignored. "I've posted you the slips of *Duel* to the U.S. edition," he wrote to Pinker in April. "I was appalled to see that they have been set up not from the serial text as one of your letters had led me to think but from a *completely uncorrected typed copy*."

"That sort of thing is not fair to me. McC should have had the PMM slips to set up from. Or at any rate the type might have been corrected before being sent over, as there was the corrected copy from which the PM text was set up."

"I had to do all the damnable grind over again – and instead of a few hours given to misprints and final polishing I was at it all Friday and all Saturday on till 2 am on Sunday." Inevitably, Conrad did not limit himself to bringing the McClure proofs into agreement with the *Pall Mall* text but made some thirty further substantive revisions in the story. The number of copies McClure printed of *The Point of Honor* is not recorded.

*Publication:* On or about 22 September 1908 at \$1.25. Printing was completed by mid-September and the two depository copies were received by the Library of Congress September 22. The book was listed in *Publishers' Weekly* October 10, and reviews appeared throughout the month of October.

During the fall of 1908 McClure was beset with financial difficulties and, as a result, in November agreed to sell his book publishing assets to Frank Doubleday. Thus, less than two months after the publication of *The Point of Honor*, the rights to the book along with the unsold stock (some bound and some in sheets) became the property of Doubleday, Page. When the unbound sheets were sent for binding, the original style was retained but the publisher's name on the spine was changed from McClure to Doubleday, Page.

*Subsequent printings:* Doubleday, Page reprinted *The Point of Honor* from the McClure plates in 1912. There were no further printings of this edition as, in 1915, the story was republished by Doubleday Page in the first American edition of *A Set of Six*.

#### D. First complete American edition.

##### (1) First printing (?)

A SET OF SIX | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | *Les petites marionnettes* | Font, font, font, | *Trois petits tours* | *Et puis s'en vont*. | NURSERY RHYME | [publisher's device] | GARDEN CITY NEW YORK | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | 1915

*Collation:* [1–24]<sup>8</sup>; pp. [i–viii] ix–x [1–2] 3–356 [357–374]; 184 x 125 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* p. i, half-title 'A SET OF SIX | [circular ship device]'; p. ii, list of sixteen works by Conrad plus the two collaborations with Ford; p. iii, title; p. vi, 'Copyright, 1908, by | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | COPYRIGHT 1907 1908, BY JOSEPH CONRAD'; p. v, dedication to Miss M. H. M. Capes, p. vi, blank; p. vii, 'CONTENTS'; p. viii, blank; pp. ix–x, 'AUTHOR'S NOTE' signed 'JOSEPH CONRAD.'; p. 1, sectional title 'A ROMANTIC TALE | [circular ship device]'; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–356, text; p. 357, sectional title 'THE ROMANTIC STORY | OF | JOSEPH CONRAD | I. INTRODUCTORY | II. BIGRAPHICAL AND AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL | III. NOVELS AND STORIES | [circular ship device]', p. 358, blank; pp. 359–372, text of this section, each page printed within a single rule border, section I signed 'E. F. SAXTON.', sections II and III described as '(Condensed from Richard Curle's "Joseph Conrad")'; p. 373, [printer's device] | THE COUNTRY LIFE PRESS | GARDEN CITY, N. Y.'; p. 374, blank.

*Binding:* (a) Dark 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 SET OF SIX | [rule] | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold 'A SET | OF SIX | [rule] | JOSEPH | CONRAD | DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers. Dust wrapper of light blue heavy wove paper printed in dark blue and gold.

(b) In 'Deep Sea' format. As above except in green limp leather and with end-papers depicting a seascape. No dust wrapper.

*Copies examined:* TXL (Deep-Sea)

##### (2) second printing

[within a border of two rules] A SET OF SIX | [two rules] | By JOSEPH CONRAD | *Les petites marionnettes* | Font, font, font, | *Trois petits tours* | *Et puis s'en vont*. | NURSERY RHYME | [publisher's device] | GARDEN CITY NEW YORK | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | 1915

*Collation:* [1–12]<sup>16</sup>; pp. [i–viii] ix–x [1–2] 3–356 [357–374]; 187 x 125 mm.; printed on wove paper.

*Contents:* As in the first printing except p. iv, 'Copyright, 1908, by | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | COPYRIGHT, 1907, 1908, BY JOSEPH CONRAD'.

*Binding:* As in the first printing. Dust jacket has the statement 'Third Large | Printing' on spine.

*Copies examined:*

*Notes*

*First printing:* After signing the agreement with McClure in March 1908 for separate book form publication of "The Duel," Conrad wrote to Pinker inquiring: "What about the rest of the vol of Short Stories? "*Strong Man, Informer. Anarchist. Brute. Il Conde* under the general title *A Romantic Tale; and some others.* (or words to that effect) ought to make a very possible vol either with McClure or Harpers or anybody else. "I suppose you have already thought out the matter – but I just mention it and would be glad to know what you think of the chances. "You remember that McClures published Typhoon vol – without the Typhoon – under the tile of *Falk*. The vol I propose would have more matter than Falk. And if we only get another £50 for it it would be that much to the good."

But the idea seems to have died with its first suggestion, possibly because the first four stories in the proposed volume had already been published in England and, therefore, could not be copyrighted in the United States, or possibly because McClure was already beginning to feel the pressures of his financial problems which, a few months later, caused him to sell his book publishing activities to Frank Doubleday. The first American publication of *A Set of Six* had to wait until the success of *Chance* had established Conrad's reputation as a saleable author and until Doubleday wanted to include the volume in their uniform series of Conrad's books. At least three printings of the first complete

*Notes*

*First printing:* At least three printings of the first complete American edition of *A Set of Six* are known to have been made in 1915. That posited to be the first has a title page without a ruled border and is gathered in eights. As the book was published simultaneously in the regular cloth and the Deep Sea limp leather formats, another printing, on thinner paper, for the Deep Sea copies must have been made about the same time as the first printing. As no copy of the Deep Sea printing has been located,<sup>30</sup> comparison of type wear between it and the cloth bound printing has not been possible. Until copies from both printings can be compared the question of printing (not publishing) priority remains open.

A third printing was called for before the end of the year. In copies from the third printing the title page has a double rule border and the signatures are gathered in sixteens, probably a carry-over from the format used for the Deep Sea copies.

Though the American edition was set from the earlier English text, proofs were sent to Conrad and in these he made a number of minor changes – usually a matter of tightening up the language by deleting an unnecessary word or changing a preposition.

*Publication:* 15 January 1915, at \$1.35 in cloth and \$1.50 in limp leather. Because of prior publication in England without registration of copyright in the United States, five of the six stories in this volume could not be copyrighted by Doubleday, Page.<sup>31</sup> Therefore, no copy was deposited with the Library of Congress and no information on the printing or publication of the book appears in the records of the U.S. Copyright Office. U.S. copyright of the author's note was not entered until 1921 when it appeared in the 'Sun-Dial Edition' of the collected works.

*A Set of Six* was listed in *Publishers' Weekly* 6 February 1915, and was reviewed in the *New York Sun* and the *New York Tribune* on January 16th.

*Subsequent printings:* After the three 1915 printings described above, *A Set of Six* was reprinted once again from this type setting in 1916 in the Deep Sea format.

*E. Second American edition.*

(1) *First American Printing*

Published as volume IX 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. IX, below).

*F. Second English edition.*

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