

A14 UNDER WESTERN EYES 1911

A. *First English edition.*

(1) *First printing, domestic issue*

UNDER WESTERN EYES | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | “*I would take liberty from any hand as a hungry | man would snatch a piece of bread.*”. . . | MISS HALDIN | METHUEN & CO. LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON

Collation: π^4 1–23⁸ X¹ [24]⁴ (X¹ signed ‘24’); pp. [2] [i–vi] [1] 2–377 [378]; 186 x 124 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: first two pages, blank; p. i, half-title ‘UNDER WESTERN EYES’; p. ii, list of eleven works by Conrad; p. iii, title; p. iv, ‘*First Published in 1911*’; p. v, dedication to Agnes Tobin; p. vi, blank; pp. 1–377, text; p. 378, ‘*Printed by | MORRISON & GIBB LIMITED | Edinburgh*’.

Binding: Red linen finish cloth. Spine stamped in gold ‘[*shell and coral design*] | UNDER | WESTERN | EYES | JOSEPH CONRAD | [*flower*] | [*shell and coral design*] | METHUEN’. Top and fore edge trimmed, bottom edge untrimmed. White wove end-papers. Bound in at the end is a 32 page publisher’s catalogue dated variously August or September 1911. Dust wrapper of blue green wove paper printed in dark blue.

Copies examined:

(2) *first printing, colonial issue*

Title page as in the domestic issue, above, except for the addition of ‘*Colonial Library*’ beneath the imprint.

Collation: As in the domestic issue, above.

Contents: As in the domestic issue, above, except p. i, the half-title, reads ‘{bl}Methuen’s Colonial Library{/bl} | [*rule*] | UNDER WESTERN EYES’.

Binding: a. Green smooth cloth. Spine stamped in gold ‘[*leaf design*] | [*within a single rule frame*] UNDER | WESTERN | EYES | · | JOSEPH | CONRAD | [*below the frame: leaf design*] | [*within a second single rule frame*] METHUEN’S | COLONIAL LIBRARY’. Top and fore edge trimmed, bottom edge untrimmed. White wove end-papers printed with Methuen’s Colonial Library advertisements. Bound in at the end is a 32 page publisher’s catalogue dated September 1911.

b. Colonial paper wrappers. No copy located.

Copies examined:

Notes

First printing: Conrad sent the first pages of *Under Western Eyes*, or “Razumov” as it was originally titled, to Pinker in December 1907, still uncertain whether the book would be a long story, as “Typhoon” and “The Duel”, or a novel. In March he wrote to Pinker: “Razumov as it will be may turn out a good thing. A serial of 4500 (say) is easier to place than one of 9000.” Anticipating that Methuen might complain about so short a book and not want to include it as one of the novels under their contract, he suggested Unwin might take it, noting that “I could write in by and bye a scene of 5,000 words which I’ve deliberately left out in view of the possible serial.” By May he had returned to the idea of Methuen taking the book and wrote again to Pinker about the scenes omitted for the sake of serialization: “When the time comes the now suppressed passages will be restored (a fortnight’s work) for book form – which perhaps Methuen will be willing to publish at {6 / -}. I will see to it that he gets a decent length for that.”

Serialization provided a necessary part of the income Conrad had to achieve with each book, but he regularly looked upon it with a financial rather than an artistic eye. Book form, and specifically English book form, publication was the text which he regarded as definitive and which would serve as the basis for an eventual edition of his collected works on which the fortunes of his literary reputation were to depend.

By the end of September 1908 *Under Western Eyes* had grown to a novel of 62,000 words and Conrad reported to Pinker that Miss Hallowes was typing clean copy of the book. Throughout 1909 Pinker made attempts to place the serial rights in both England and the United States. Harper appears to have rejected it because their magazine circulated in Russia and they feared it would cause a breach in their good relations with that country. Eventually, however, American serial rights were sold to the *North American Review* and British rights to the *English Review*,

both of which began publication of the novel in their December 1910 issues. The text as established in the *English Review* was forwarded to Methuen, beginning in June 1911, for them to begin setting for book form publication. Conrad wrote to Pinker: "I shall send you on Monday the text as published in the ER, torn out of the numbers and arranged for the printers. I wish Methuen to set up from *that*. There would then be no author's alterations - only corrections of misprints.

"They can go on as far as it has appeared including June. And for the future I shall correct the 2 sets of Review proofs and send one to you for Methuen to go on setting up from."

When he read the Methuen proofs, however, Conrad made numerous small revisions³² so that the text of the first English edition contains a number of variant readings not found in either serial version or the first American edition.

On 5 September 1911, Methuen ordered 3000 copies of *Under Western Eyes* printed by Morrison and Gibb, Edinburgh. Of these, 2250 were to have domestic and 750 colonial issue prelims. Sheets for 3001 copies were received from the printer between September 11th and 23rd. The domestic issue copies were the first ordered bound: 2000 on September 15th and the remaining 250 on October 3rd. The colonial binding order for 650 copies in cloth and 101 in Colonial Library paper wrappers followed October 7th.

Publication: 5 October 1911 for the domestic issue; 17 October 1911 for the colonial issue. British Museum depository copy was received October 5th.

Subsequent printings: A second printing of 1500 copies (1000 domestic and 500 colonial) was ordered 20 September 1911. Moulds were made in December 1911 and stereotype plates were cast in May 1915. A third printing of 1000 copies (all domestic, published at {2 / -}) was ordered in May 1915. In 1917 the book was reset in a smaller format (320 pages) and numbering of "editions" continued consecutively for printings from these and the first edition plates. Later printings from the first edition plates were as follows: fourth printing in 1920 styled "6th edition", fifth in 1929 styled "14th edition," and sixth also in 1929 styled "15th edition."

B. Second English edition.

(1) Crown format

UNDER | WESTERN EYES | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | "I WOULD TAKE LIBERTY FROM ANY HAND AS A HUNGRY | MAN WOULD SNATCH A PIECE OF BREAD." . . . | MISS HALDIN | METHUEN & CO. LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON

Collation: [I]⁸ 2-20⁸; pp. [1-6] 7-320; 167 x 117 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. 1, half-title 'UNDER WESTERN EYES'; p. 2, list of five other Conrad titles in this form; p. 3, title; p. 4, printing history of the Methuen editions; p. 5, dedication to Agnes Tobin; p. 6, blank; p. 7-320, text, p. 320, [bottom of page]'Printed in Great Britain by Butler & Tanner Ltd., Frome and London'.

Binding: Maroon rib cloth. Front cover stamped in gold '[*cursive script*] Joseph Conrad'. Spine stamped in gold 'UNDER | WESTERN | EYES | JOSEPH | CONRAD | METHUEN'. Top edge trimmed, fore and bottom edges untrimmed. White wove endpapers.

Copies examined: OKentU, TXU (rebound)

Notes

The book was reset for publication in a cheaper and smaller format, numbering 320 pages, in 1917 and styles the "4th edition" and then reprinted as follows: second printing in 1920 styled "5th edition"; third printing in 1923 styled "7th edition"; fourth printing in 1924 styled "8th edition"; fifth printing in 1924 styled "9th edition"; sixth printing in 1925 styled "10th edition"; seventh printing in 1926 styled "11th edition"; eighth printing in 1927 styled "12th edition"; ninth printing in 1929 also styled "12th edition"; eleventh printing in 1943 styled "6th edition"; and twelfth printing in 1946 styled "17th edition."

C. First American edition.

(1) First printing

UNDER | WESTERN EYES | A NOVEL | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | AUTHOR OF | "THE SECRET AGENT" | "NOSTROMO," ETC. | [*publisher's device*] | HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS | NEW YORK AND LONDON | MCMXI

Collation: [1]⁴ 2–24⁸ 254; pp. [i-ii] [1–2] 3–377 [378] [4]; 186 x 124 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i, title; p. ii, 'COPYRIGHT, 1910, 1911, BY HARPER & BROTHERS | [*short rule*] | PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | PUBLISHED OCTOBER, 1911'; p. 1, sectional title 'PART FIRST'; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–378. text; last four pages, blank.

Binding: (a) Dark blue vertically ribbed cloth. Front cover stamped in gold 'UNDER | WESTERN | EYES [*column of three squares*] | [*two squares*] JOSEPH [*two squares*] | [*square*] CONRAD [*square*]'; spine stamped in gold 'UNDER | WESTERN | EYES | [*Gothic style device*] | CONRAD | HARPERS'. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers.

Copies examined:

(b) 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*] UNDER | WESTERN | EYES | [*rule*] | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped 'UNDER | WESTERN | EYES | [*rule*] | JOSEPH | CONRAD | HARPERS'. All edges trimmed. White wove endpapers.

Copies examined: TXU

Notes

First printing: The first American edition of *Under Western Eyes* was set from the text as published in the *North American Review* and does not include the changes made by Conrad in the proofs of the English edition. As the few differences between the *North American Review* and Harper texts do not correspond to Conrad's revisions, they would appear to have been made by Harper editors. Plates were made before the first printing of 4000 copies which, ordered 9 August 1911, was completed October 5th.

Publication: 19 October 1911, at \$1.25. Copies of the *North American Review* containing the serial installments of *Under Western Eyes* were deposited in the Library of Congress between 30 November 1910 and 24 October 1911 to secure U. S. copyright. The required two copies of the book were deposited October 21st.

Sales between publication on October 19th and the end of the year totaled 1976 copies and then began to drop off after the early months of 1912. During 1912 sales reached 737 copies and thereafter ranged between 150 and 300 copies a year until the first printing was sold out in 1917.

Subsequent printings: Harper reprinted *Under Western Eyes* only once: 1,000 copies in March 1917. It was issued in the (b) binding that was similar to the format used by Doubleday, Page & Co. Sales of these and the few remaining copies of the first printing continued at an average of 175 copies a year through 1922, dropped to 75 copies in 1923, and with no sales on the books by mid-1924 the book was removed from the Harper list.

(2) Second printing in the 'Deep Sea' format

[*within frame of two rules*] UNDER WESTERN | EYES | A NOVEL | [*two rules*] | By JOSEPH CONRAD | [*publisher's device*] | GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | 1916

Collation: [1–12]¹⁶ with obsolete signatures 2–24; pp. [i-iv] [1–2] 3–377 [378–380]; 180 x 118 mm.

Contents: p. i, half-title; p. ii, books by the same author; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'Copyright 1910, 1911, by | HARPER & BROTHERS'; p. 1, part title; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–378, text; p. 379, '[*publisher's device*] | THE COUNTRY LIFE PRESS | GARDEN CITY, N.Y.'; p. 380, blank.

Binding: Dark blue limp leather. Front cover stamped in gold '[*ship device over frame*] UNDER | WESTERN | EYES | JOSEPH | CONRAD | [*publisher's device*]'. Spine stamped in gold '[*ship device*] | UNDER | WESTERN | EYES | CONRAD | [*device*] | DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' All edges trimmed; top edge gilt. Decorative end papers.

Copies examined: TXT (2 copies), OKentU (2 copies, 1916 and 1917)

Notes

Although no records have been found to confirm that this is the case, Doubleday and Harpers apparently agreed that the first firm could issue the novel in its 'Deep Sea' format if the second firm could issue it in cloth binding similar to the one Doubleday used for all of Conrad's books.

D. Second American edition.

(1) First American printing

Published as volume X 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. X, below).

E. Second English edition.

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