

A17 CHANCE 1914

A. *First English edition.*

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

CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | THOSE THAT HOLD THAT ALL THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY | FORTUNE HAD NOT ERRED, HAD THEY NOT PERSISTED THERE | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | METHUEN & CO. LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON

Collation: π^4 [1]⁸ 2–25⁸ 26⁴ pp. [i-iv] v-vii [viii] [1–2] 3–406 [407–408]; 186 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i. half-title 'CHANCE'; p. ii, list of thirteen works by Conrad plus the two collaborations with Ford; p. iii, title; p. iv, '*First Published in 1913*'; p. v, dedication to Sir Hugh Clifford; pp. vi-vii, 'CONTENTS'; p. viii, blank, p. 1, sectional title 'PART I | THE DAMSEL'; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–406, text; p. 407, blank; p. 408, '*Printed by | MORRISON & GIBB LIMITED | Edinburgh*'.

Binding: a. Green linen finish cloth. Spine stamped in gold '[*shell and coral design*] | CHANCE | [*two flowers*] | 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 are eight pages of advertisements for 'METHUEN'S | POPULAR NOVELS' dated autumn 1913 followed by a 32 page publisher's catalogue dated July 1913. The eight pages of advertisements are found from either of two printings: *first*, no advertisement for Arnold Lunn's *The Harrovians* on p. 6; *second*, with the advertisement for *The Harrovians* at the head of p. 6. Dust wrapper of grey wove paper printed in dark blue, with a separately printed coloured illustration pasted on the front.

b. Same as the a binding except that the publisher's name on the spine is 'METHUEN' and there is no 32 page publisher's catalogue.

Copies examined:

Notes

On February 7, 1913, Conrad wrote to Pinker, "The MS of Chance goes rg^d by this post. Old Dent will have a fit when he sees its noble proportions." He goes on to tell Pinker that book form publication must be no later than the first week of September so serialization must be completed in six months. Dent, after a hasty reading of the first 200 pages and the conclusion wrote to Conrad that he wished he were publishing the book but finds the story unsuitable for serialization. "In the short time I have had," he wrote, "I have tried to plan how I might ask you to shape it for a serial; but it is hopeless. I cannot get any plan that would help you, nor help me, and to attempt to use it for my poor paper would mean to overweight it altogether and do it mischief rather than good." So Dent rejected serialization and Conrad, still under contract to Methuen, could not offer him the book rights.

Conrad's feud with Methuen – ostensibly caused by less advertising of his books than Conrad wished but likely derived from Conrad's touchiness which made it difficult for him to remain long

on good terms with any of his publishers – was raging at this time. ‘They tell me that I did not give them what they expected for their money. That I gave them things which the public did not want from me. They tell me this, gratuitously, without provocation (for I did not complain and had no thought of complaining) thus destroying all my feeling of confidence in our relations as author and publishers. I naturally offer to relieve them of a probable third disappointment (*Chance*) and propose to return to them the £50 paid to me on signature of contract.’ In fact, Conrad would have had to ask Pinker to repay the £50 and the matter was smoothed over though Conrad remained testy. In July he wrote, “. . . but I thought that the date of *Chance*’s publication was the 4th of Sept. Why do they put it off till the 18th? Generally I don’t worry about these matters but in this case I do feel annoyed.” Then, on September 26, “Have you heard from Methuen? I suppose the book must be put off till next year. Please tell them that it must be early. And also that they must announce it’s appearance properly when the time comes. . . P.S. Please ask Methuen to send me one copy of *Chance* for myself. A good many people and a good many newspapers have copies already.” He continued in the same vein in his letter to Pinker October 11 ‘This sort of thing is very unsettling; the more so because I have no particular confidence in that firm. . The strike (I have noticed) did not prevent them from putting out a good many books – novels and others. I have been watching their ads: lately. No doubt there *was* a strike (and *is* still for all I know). But I ask myself whether they have not used that pretext for keeping me (and maybe some others) out of their over full list for a time.” Even publication and a selling success failed to calm Conrad’s ire. On 11 February 1914 he wrote to Pinker, “Can’t say I am so glad to hear Methuen’s communication to you. To call 5,000 copies 5 editions is not making a success – it is simply suggesting what is false.[¶] They printed an edition of 5,000. . . and divided it into thousands. This is a mere trick calculated to give a false impression. . . . I will never have a commercial success until I get away from these people.” In fact, Methuen’s report to Pinker was quite accurate: the fifth printing of *Chance* had been ordered on 20 January 1914; the total number of copies through the press by then exceeded 9,000. The binders’ strike with the resulting delays, shifting of stock from colonial and Canadian issues to the domestic market and back again and the various cancel titles have left a maze of printings, issues and states of *Chance* which has left more people than just the book’s author confused about these early printings. An attempt to unravel the printing history of *Chance* follows.

The first printing of *Chance* consisted of 3,021 copies, 1,956 of which were supplied with domestic issue preliminaries. A binder’s strike caused publication to be postponed from September 1913 until 15 January 1914 and cancel title pages with the corrected date on the verso were printed for all domestic issue copies. Methuen’s stock ledger indicates that 51 copies of *Chance* had left their hands before cancellation began, so at least that many copies were issued in the pre-publication state with the original 1913 title.³⁶ The total number may have been slightly larger as a few copies may have inadvertently escaped the binder’s knife.

Two binding styles have been noted which may or may not represent the two binding orders (August 25th and September 3rd) placed for the domestic issue of the first printing. That the publisher’s file copy and the British Museum depository copy, both received September 18th and before any copies from the second binding order had been delivered, are in the *a* binding shows that some if not all copies from the first order were in this style. Of the fourteen copies from the first printing, domestic issue, in the pre-publication state examined, seven are in the *a* binding and seven in the *b* binding.

The list of Conrad’s works facing the title page exists in two states: (1) with both sets of quotes present around “Narcissus”; (2) with the second set of quotes missing. All copies from the first printing in the pre-publication state examined have the list in the first state. On the title page the motto is 44 mm. below Conrad’s name and the three lines of the imprint are 49, 55, and 22 mm. in length.

CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | THOSE THAT HOLD THAT
ALL THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY | FORTUNE HAD NOT ERRED, HAD THEY NOT
PERSISTED THERE | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | TORONTO | BELL & COCKBURN

Collation: π^4 [1]⁸ 2–25⁸ 26⁴; pp. [i-iv] v-vii [viii] [1–2] 3–406 [407–408]; 56 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above) except pages ii and iv are blank.

Binding: Green linen finish cloth. Spine stamped in gold '[*leaf design*] | [*within a single rule frame*] CHANCE | JOSEPH | CONRAD | [*below the frame: leaf design*] | BELL & COCKBURN'. Top and fore edge trimmed, bottom edge untrimmed. White wove end-papers. Bound in at the end is a 32 page catalogue of Methuen's advertisements dates July 1913.

Copies examined:

Notes

Printing: 315 copies of the first printing were supplied with Canadian prelims and specially bound for Bell and Cockburn of Toronto. The bound copies were received by Methuen 17 September 1913 and shipped immediately to the Canadian publisher.

Publication: Early November 1913. *Chance* is listed in *The Globe* (Toronto) 1 November 1913 among the books received from Bell and Cockburn for reviewing. Though no review of the book appeared, it is included in the December 6th survey of "The Season's Best Books in Review."

(3) First printing, colonial issue, first state

CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | THOSE THAT HOLD THAT
ALL THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY | FORTUNE HAD NOT ERRED, HAD THEY NOT
PERSISTED THERE | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | METHUEN & CO. LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET
W.C. | LONDON | *Colonial Library*

Collation: π^4 [1]⁸ 2–25⁸ 26⁴; pp. [i-iv] v-vii [viii] [1–2] 3–406 [407–408]; 186 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above) except: p. i, half-title '{bl}Methuen's Colonial Library{/bl}' | [*short rule*] | CHANCE'.

Binding: a. Red smooth cloth. Spine stamped in gold '[*leaf design*] | [*within a single rule frame*] CHANCE | · | 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 laid end-papers printed with a list of fiction in Methuen's Colonial Library. Bound in at the end is a 32 page publisher's catalogue dated May 1913, July 1913 or September 1913.

b. Paper wrappers. Advertised and recorded in the Methuen stock ledgers, but no copy located.

(4) First printing, colonial issue, second state

CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | THOSE THAT HOLD THAT
ALL THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY | FORTUNE HAD NOT ERRED, HAD THEY NOT
PERSISTED THERE | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | METHUEN & CO. LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET
W.C. | LONDON | [*rubber stamped in Purple ink*] *Colonial Library*

Collation: π^4 ($-\pi 1,2 + \pi 1.2$) [1]⁸ 2–25⁸ 26⁴; pp. [i–iv] v–vii [viii] [1–2] 3–406 [407–408]; 186 x 122 m.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above).

Binding: Same as the *a* binding of the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above).

(5) *First printing, domestic issue, second state*

As A17(a)4, except lacking '[*rubber stamped in Purple ink*] *Colonial Library*'.

Copies examined: TXL (A17(a)5)

Notes

Printing: 750 copies from the first printing were supplied with colonial prelims. When it became evident that the binders' strike would delay the supply of copies needed to meet the demands of the home trade, Methuen ordered 1,100 cancel 'titles 1st edn (Eng)' – conjugate half-titles – intending to use them in the 1,065 copies originally planned for the Canadian and colonial issues, thereby applying the entire first printing to the domestic market. In fact, only 315 cancels were used. Once it was realized the strike would seriously delay publication in England the decision to use the colonial and Canada copies to fill domestic orders was reversed, the Canadian copies were shipped, and the remaining colonial copies were ordered bound, 200 in colonial cloth and 235 in colonial paper wrappers. Colonial issue copies already supplied with cancel titles and half-titles and bound in the domestic issue binding were transferred back to the colonial stock and rubber stamped '*Colonial Library*' on the title page beneath the imprint. Both sets of quotes are present around "Narcissus" in the list of Conrad's works facing the title in the title / half-title cancel. On the cancel title the motto is 47.5 mm. below Conrad's name and the three lines of the imprint are 46, 55, and 21 mm. in length. The first bound colonial copies were not received by Methuen until October 10th. A copy of the colonial issue, second state, now in the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library contains the ownership inscription 'Bel Saunders The "Shack" Koffyfontain 27 November 1913', showing that copies of the colonial issue were on sale in Koffiefontein, in the Orange Free State, Union of South Africa, by late November.

(6) *Second printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state*

CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | THOSE THAT HOLD THAT
ALL THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY | FORTUNE HAD NOT ERRED, HAD THEY NOT
PERSISTED THERE | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | SECOND EDITION | METHUEN & CO.
LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON

Collation: π^4 [1]⁸ 2–25⁸ 26⁴; pp. [i–iv] v–vii [viii] [1–2] 3–406 [407–408]; 86 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above).

Binding: a. Colonial cloth binding, as binding *a* of the first printing colonial issue, first state (above).

b. Domestic issue binding. [777 copies of the second printing were bound in the domestic issue binding, but no copy has been located in the pre-publication state.]

Copies examined:

Notes

The second printing of *Chance* consisted of 1,527 copies, 1,011 of which were supplied with domestic issue prelims. 250 copies were transferred to the colonial market and bound in the colonial binding. The remaining 777 copies were supplied with cancel title pages before publication. All copies examined lack the quotes after “Narcissus” in the list of Conrad’s works facing the title page. The motto is 29.5 mm. below Conrad’s name on the title page and the three lines of the imprint are 46, 55, and 21 mm. in length.

(7) Second printing, colonial issue

CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | THOSE THAT HOLD THAT
ALL THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY | FORTUNE HAD NOT ERRED, HAD THEY NOT
PERSISTED THERE | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | SECOND EDITION | METHUEN & CO.
LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON | *Colonial Library*

Collation: π⁴ [1]⁸ 2–25⁸ [26]⁴; pp. [i–iv] v–vii [viii] [1–2] 3–406 [407–408]; 56 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above) except: p. i, half-title ‘{bl}Methuen’s Colonial Library{/bl} | [*short rule*] | CHANCE’.

Binding: a. Colonial cloth binding, as binding *a* of the first printing, colonial issue, first state (above).

b. Paper wrappers. [no copy located]

Copies examined:

Notes

500 copies of the second printing contained Methuen Colonial Library prelims. These, plus 250 copies transferred from the domestic stock, were issued 600 in colonial cloth and 150 in colonial paper wrappers. In the only copy located, the quotes after “Narcissus” in the list of Conrad’s works facing the title page are present. This indicates the colonial issue preliminaries were printed before those for the domestic issue of the second printing in which the quotes are missing and that the quotes must have been dropped during the course of the second printing.

(8) Third printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state

[No copy located, but presumably uniform with the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state, except for the addition of ‘THIRD EDITION’ to the title page. The third printing of *Chance* consisted of 1,500 copies, 1,250 of which had domestic issue prelims.]

(9) Third printing, colonial issue, first state

[No copy located, but presumably uniform with the first printing, colonial issue, first state, except for the addition of 'THIRD EDITION' to the title page. Of the third printing, 250 copies had colonial prelims, but 150 of these were transferred to the domestic market. The remaining 100 copies were bound in colonial cloth by 12 November 1913. Colonial issue copies of the first three printings of *Chance* were on sale before publication in England.]

(10) Third printing, colonial issue, second state, as issued domestically

CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | THOSE THAT HOLD THAT ALL THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY | FORTUNE HAD NOT ERRED, HAD THEY NOT PERSISTED THERE | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | METHUEN & CO. LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON

Collation: π^4 (- $\pi 1$, 2 + $\pi 1$.2; $\pi 2$)⁸ 2–25⁸ 26⁴; pp. [i-iv] v-vii [viii]. [1–2] 3–406 [407–408]; 186 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above) except: p. iv 'First Published in 1914.

Binding: As in the *b* binding of the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above).

Copies examined:

Notes

150 copies of the third printing, colonial issue, here transferred to the domestic stock. The colonial titles and half-titles were cancelled and replaced by the conjugate cancel domestic titles and half-titles which had been printed in September. This was done between October 10th and 14th, before the decision to postpone publication until January 1914 had been made. Before publication the 1913 cancel title pages, but not the half-titles, were cancelled and replaced by the 1914 cancel title pages. As a result, the first signature in these copies consists of four disjunct leaves.

Both sets of quotes are present around "Narcissus" in the list of Conrad's works facing the title page. On the title page, the motto is 29.5 mm. below Conrad's name and the three lines of the imprint are 46, 55, and 21 mm. in length.

(11) First, second, and / or third printing, domestic issue, first published state

TITLE PAGE A: CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | THOSE THAT HOLD THAT ALL THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY | FORTUNE HAD NOT ERRED, HAD THEY NOT PERSISTED THERE | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | METHUEN & CO. LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. | LONDON

TITLE PAGE B: As in title page A except 'SECOND EDITION' is added between the motto and the imprint.

TITLE PAGE C: As in title page A except 'THIRD EDITION' is added between the motto and the imprint.

TITLE PAGE D: A duplicate setting of title page B. The line 'A TALE IN TWO PARTS' measures 52 mm. in the original and 54 mm. in the duplicate setting. A different type face has been used for the imprint: the tail of the '3' in the second line of the imprint rests on the base line in title page B and falls below it in title page D; the 'C' in the first and again in the second line of the imprint has a serif in the bottom curve in title page B but not in title page D.

Collation: π^4 ($\{s5\}\pi2$) $[1]^8$ 2–25⁸ 26⁴; pp. [i-iv] v-vii [viii] [1–2] 3–406 [407–408]; 186 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above) except p. iv, the verso of the title page, is as follows: title page A, 'First Published in 1914'; title page B 'First Published . . January 15th 1914 | Second Edition . . February 5th 1914'; title page C, 'First Published . . January 15th 1914 | Second Edition . . February 5th 1914 | Third Edition . . March 2nd 1914'; title page D, 'First Published . . January 15th 1914 | Second Edition . . January 19th 1914'.

Binding: As both the *a* and *b* bindings of the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above).

Binding note: Sheets of the entire first printing were delivered to Straker who received two binding orders for domestic issue copies, the first for 1,750 on 25 August 1913, and the second for 500 on 3 September 1913. For the first binding Straker used the 'METHUEN' brass on the spine, and bound in a 32 page publisher's catalogue dated July 1913. The publisher's file copy and the depository copies in the British Museum and Bodleian Libraries are all in this binding, and all received before any copies from the second binding had been delivered to the publisher. For the second binding Straker changed the style slightly, employing the 'METHUEN' brass and omitting the publisher's catalogue. By Mid-September sewing and case-making had been completed for the first binding order for 1,750 copies, and 837 of these had been cased and delivered to Methuen. Sewing and case-making also had been completed for the second order, but casing had not yet begun when a binders' strike stopped work at Straker's. Methuen then requested that the 500 copies from the second order be delivered to them sewn and with their cases. These were received September 19th and immediately sent to a second binder, Burn, for casing.

Unfortunately less is known about the binding of the second and third printings. Both were bound by Burn, but no copy from either printing in the domestic issue binding has been seen with its original title page uncanceled. Thus, Burn may have used either or both styles. Only discovery of copies from the second and third printings with their original title pages will answer the question definitely. Meanwhile, the limited evidence available indicates Burn modeled their cases on those supplied by Straker with the 500 copies from the second binding order and bound the second and third printings in the 'METHUEN' style.

Copies examined:

Notes

First Printings: Though three printings of *Chance* had been completed by mid-October 1913, Methuen was still without sufficient bound copies in stock to issue the book in England. By late October³⁷ it became evident that – *Chance* would not appear until 1914 and it was decided to cancel the title page with the statement 'First Published in 1913' on the verso and replace it with one giving the publication date as 1914.

On 11 November 1913 Methuen ordered 4,500 cancel titles from Morrison & Gibb, designated in the stock ledger as 3,000 first edition, 750 second edition, and 750 third edition. It is evident no attempt was made to affix 'first', 'second' and 'third edition' cancel titles to their respective printings. Title pages were cancelled only for domestic issue copies and of these there were 2,271 from the first printing, 777 from the second, and 1,400 from the third. The cancel titles described as A, B, and C above were printed from the standing type used for the title pages of the earlier printings. In these cancel titles the motto is 29.5 m. below Conrad's name and the three lines of the imprint are 46, 55 and 21 mm. in length.

Pre-publication orders for the book were even greater than anticipated and by publication day, January 15th, exceeded the 3,000 for which 'first edition' cancel titles had been printed. As the 'second edition' cancel titles gave the publication date of that 'edition' as February 5th 1914 – still three weeks off – a new printing of 'second edition' cancel titles was ordered with the reading '*Second Edition . . . January 19th 1914*'. Subsequent printings contain the January 19th date and correct the 'third edition' date to read January 21st. No corrected 'third edition' cancel title page has been seen though the possibility remains that such were printed. Because the original setting was being used to print the fourth printing (ordered January 12th and received from the printer January 23rd) a duplicate setting was made to print the new 'second edition' cancels.

Copies from any of the first three printings could have any of the four 1914 cancel title pages.³⁸ Is it possible, then, to determine to which of the first three printings a copy of *Chance* with a 1914 cancel title belongs? Though positive identification of all three printings does not now appear possible, the following points may be made. The gathering containing the preliminaries exists in two states, the first *with* and the second *without* the quotation marks after "Narcissus" in the list of Conrad's works facing the title page. All copies of the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state, which I have examined have both sets of quotes around "Narcissus"; of the three copies of the second printing, pre-publication state which have been located one, colonial issue, has both sets of quotes and two, domestic issue, lack the quotes after "Narcissus". All copies of the cancel conjugate half-title / title have both sets of quotes. Though the order for the cancels sent to the printers September 12th followed the order for the second printing by three days, there is reason to believe the cancels were printed first.³⁹ Of the thirty copies of *Chance* with a 1914 cancel title which I have examined, fifteen have the list in the first state, and fifteen in the second state. If this sampling is an accurate representation of the whole, it would appear the quotes were dropped very early during the course of the second printing, creating approximately 2,200 copies in each state.⁴⁰

If this hypothesis is correct, the great majority of copies of *Chance* with the half-title uncanceled and both sets of quotes present around "Narcissus" in the list of Conrad's works on the verso of the half-title are from the first printing. Copies with the half-title uncanceled and without the second set of quotes are from the second or third printings. Copies with the cancel conjugate half-title / title with both sets of quotes present are from the first printing, colonial issue, second state, and those with the disjunct cancel half-title and the disjunct cancel title and with both sets of quotes present are from the third printing, colonial issue, second state, as issued domestically (q.q.v.).

Copies of *Chance* with cancel prelims have been noticed in the past and described as a later issue of the first printing. In fact, the publisher's stock ledgers show that these copies are from the eighth printing.

Publication: 15 January 1915, at 6s.

Subsequent printings: In the first three impressions the table of contents appears on pp. vi-vii. In the fifth it appears on pp. vii-viii. No copy of the fourth has yet been examined. After the first three printings which had totaled something over 6,000 copies, *Chance* was reprinted as follows: 4th

printing, 12 Jan 1914, 1000; 5th printing, 20 Jan 1914, 2000; 6th printing, 28 Jan 1914, 1500 (1250 6s., 250 colonial); 7th printing, 6 Feb 1914, 2000; 8th printing, 27 Mar 1914, 1000 (900 6s., 100 colonial); 9th printing, 3 Nov 1915, 1500 (400 6s., 1000 2s., 100 colonial); 10th printing, 18 Jan 1916, 1000 (2s.); 11th printing, 13 Apr 1916, 12,500 (1s.); 12th printing, 30 Apr 1919, 5,000 (2s.); 14th printing, 12 Apr 1920, 1000 (350 9s., 650 3s. 6d.); 15th printing, 22 Jun 1920, 5,000 (4s. 6d.); 16th printing, 12 Oct 1920, 10,000 (2s.); 17th printing, 13 Feb 1922, 2000 (4s. 6d.).

Between publication on 15 January 1914 and 12 February 1916 when the 6s. copies were reported out of print, Methuen had sold 11,998 copies at that price from the first nine printings. There had also been sold 315 Canadian and 1684 colonial issue copies. Cheaper copies, priced from 1s. to 4s. 6d., numbered 61,600 from the 9th through the 24th printings. These, along with 350 copies sold at 9s. in 1920, bring the total sale of copies printed from the first edition setting during the first fifteen years to 75,947.

(12) Second and / or third printing, domestic issue, second published state

CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | THOSE THAT HOLD THAT
ALL THINGS ARE GOVERNED BY | FORTUNE HAD NOT ERRED, HAD THEY NOT
PERSISTED THERE | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | METHUEN & CO. LTD. | 36 ESSEX STREET
W.C. | LONDON

Collation: π^4 ($\{s5\}\pi2$; $\{s5\}\pi2$) [1] 2–25⁸ 26⁴; pp. [i-iv] v-vii [viii] [1–2] 3–406 [407–408]; 186 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above).

Binding: As binding *b* of the first printing, domestic issue, pre-publication state (above).

Copies examined:

Notes

T. J. Wise, in his *Bibliography of the Writings of Joseph Conrad*, called attention to copies of *Chance* with cancel 1913 title pages which he described as forgeries. However, a close examination of the cancel 1913 and cancel 1914 titles strongly indicates they were printed from the same setting of type. Both differ from the integral 1913 title. On the integral 1913 title page the motto is 44 mm. below Conrad's name, on both the 1913 and 1914 cancels, 29 mm.;⁴¹ on the integral 1913 title the line lengths in the imprint cancels, 29.5 mm.; are 49, 55, and 22 mm., in the two cancels they are 46, 55, and 21 mm.

If, indeed, a practiced forger had been at work he might well have taken care to have an exact facsimile of the title page made, measuring all spacing down to the last millimeter, but inadvertently using the 1914 cancel rather than the 1913 original as his model. Yet, if such care had been taken in producing the title page, it seems likely he also would have made an effort to disguise the fact that his new title pages were cancels. This was not done. In the seven copies with 1913 cancel titles which I have examined, cancellation is obvious, the stub of the original leaf having been left clearly visible.

More likely, these 1913 cancels are the 500 'Titles (1st edn)' recorded in the Methuen stock ledger as ordered 15 January 1914. As we have already noted, 4,500 cancel titles, slightly more than enough for all the domestic issue copies of the first three printings, had been printed in November 1913. Why additional cancel titles were printed in January 1914 we can only speculate: they may have been ordered to replace damaged stock, or possibly the publishers decided to issue fewer copies with second and third edition titles. Whatever the reason, the additional cancels were

ordered and, in spite of their unexplained 1913 date, they are probably the titles Wise described as forgeries.

There is some evidence to support this latter conclusion. As already noted, both the 1913 and the 1913 cancel titles give every indication of having been printed from the same type-setting. It might also be noted that a copy of *Chance* with the 1913 cancel title was presented by Conrad to Edward Thomas in 1914 (in the University of Texas Library). Presumably, Conrad obtained this as a new copy, most probably from the publisher who, in that event, were themselves issuing copies with the 1913 cancel title.

Though the evidence presented here is indicative rather than conclusive, taken *in toto* it strongly suggests that the 1913 cancel title is not a forgery, but is rather a publisher's cancel. While it is possible it could have been affixed to copies from any of the first three printings, all copies examined with this cancel title are in the 'METHUEN' binding and lack the quotes after "Narcissus" in the list of Conrad's works and, therefore, are from either the second or third printing.

B. First American edition.

(1) First printing, pre-publication state

CHANCE | A TALE IN TWO PARTS BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | *THOSE that hold that all things are governed by | Fortune had not erred, had they not persisted there.* | SIR THOMAS BROWNE | [publisher's device] | GARDEN CITY 1913 NEW YORK | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY

Collation: [1–30]⁸; pp. [i–vi] vii–viii [1–2] 3–468 [469–470] [2], 187 x 124 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i, half-title 'CHANCE'; p. ii, blank; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'Copyright, 1913, by | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | All rights reserved including that of | translation into foreign languages, | including the Scandinavian | Copyright, 1912, by | THE NEW YORK HERALD CO.'; p. v, dedication to Sir Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G.; p. vi, blank; pp. vii–viii, 'CONTENTS' p. 1, sectional title 'PART I | THE DAMSEL'; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–468, text, p. 469, '[printer's device] | THE COUNTRY LIFE PRESS | GARDEN CITY, N.Y.'; p. 470 and the last two pages, blank.

Binding: 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] CHANCE | [rule] | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold 'CHANCE | [rule] | JOSEPH | CONRAD | DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers. Light blue wove paper dust wrapper printed in blue and gold.

(2) First printing, published state

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Collation: [1]⁸ ({s5}) [2–30]⁸; pp. [i–vi] vii–viii [1–2] 3–468 [469–470] [2]; 187 x 124 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing, pre-publication state.

Binding: As in the first printing, pre-publication state.

Copies examined:

Notes

First printing: Proofs of the English edition, sent by Methuen to Doubleday, Page in August 1913, served as copy text for the first American edition. Variations between the English and American texts are numerous, but consist largely either of an added, deleted, or altered word or short phrase or of changes in punctuation. The American edition tends to be more heavily punctuated than the English, employing many more commas and using quotation marks within quotation marks where the English edition does not. These were almost certainly editorial changes made at Doubleday, Page. On the other hand, while some of the changes in wording may be editorial, others are authorial revisions made in the English proofs but not incorporated in the American edition (e.g. English edition, p. 3 line 2 'in the dinghy', American edition, p. 3 line 2, 'in an overloaded dinghy'; English edition, p. 5 line 4 'the hottest time', American edition, p. 5 line 12, 'the hottest two hours').

Though no Doubleday, Page records concerning the publication of *Chance* have survived, records in the U. S. Copyright Office state that the book was printed from plates and that printing was completed 18 September 1913. Interim copyright was applied for on October 3rd and on the 6th a copy of the Methuen edition was deposited to meet the interim copyright requirements. The application lists 18 September 1913 as the publication date for the English edition – a date which eventually was postponed to 15 January 1914. Doubleday's application for regular copyright followed October 9th on which date two copies of the American edition were deposited in the Library of Congress. That application lists the American publication date as 7 October 1913.

The notion that 150 copies of the American edition were printed for copy-right is obviously erroneous. The first printing of the book had been completed September 18th with an anticipated publication date of October 7th as yet unaltered. In the absence of publisher's records, from this point we can only conjecture what happened. A normal first printing of a novel in the United States of an established though not best selling writer at this time would have been between 4000 and 5000 copies and it is about this number which Doubleday, Page probably ordered of *Chance*. With these on hand and binding of the first lot under way, Methuen requested that publication of the American edition to be delayed until a new date for the English edition could be established. At this point, the end of the first week of October, English publication had been delayed but the decision had not yet been made to postpone it until January 1914. Therefore, still anticipating fall publication, Doubleday, Page, distributed their review and other advance copies.⁴²

At this period in the United States, publishing was largely a seasonal business with most books issued either in the spring or the fall. When the January 1914 date for English publication was announced, Doubleday, Page moved *Chance* up to their spring list. As no copies have been seen with cancel title pages and as the 1913 copies are scarcer than they should be had the entire first printing been issued with that date on the title page, it is likely new prelims were printed. As the book had been printed from plates, no resetting would have been required, there was ample time available between postponement and the new publication date; and as most of the first printing presumably was still in unbound sheets, substitution of a cancel signature would have been preferable to tipping cancel title pages. Copies with the 1914 cancel prelims constitute the published state of the first printing. These copies should not be confused with those from the four 1914 printings described below.

Publication: 26 March 1914, at \$1.35.

Subsequent printings: Doubleday, Page reprinted *Chance* four times before the end of 1914. The characteristics of these printings are as follows:

a. Second printing. Gathered in sixteens; title page, from the original setting, dated 1914; half-title without the ship device.

b. Third printing. Gathered in eights; title page, reset within a double rule border, dated 1914; half-title with the ship device. Printed on thin paper for issue in the 'Deep Sea' format.

c. Fourth printing. Gathered in eights; title page, from setting within a double rule border, dated 1914; half-title without the ship device.

d. Fifth printing. Gathered in eights; title page, from the original setting, dated 1914; half-title with the ship device. Assignment of priority between these printings is based on type wear and later mending of the plates.⁴³ A few samples are given below:

page and type	1913	1914a	1914b	1914c	1914d	1915
p. 20, last line: 'If'	+	+	-	-	-	-
p. 33, last line: 'living'	+	+	-	-	-	-
p. 57, last line: tails of all descenders clipped	-	-	+	+	+	+
p. 61, headline: '6' in '61'	+	-	+	+	+	+
p. 72, last line: 'g' in 'got'	-	-	+	+	+	+
p. 81, lines 2-4: first letters of each line	+	-	-	-	-	-
p. 90, line 4 up: 'I'	+	+	+	+	-	-
p. 114, last line: 'forcible'	+	+	+	-	-	-
p. 129, last line: first 'o' in 'door'	-	-	+	+	+	+
p. 134, last line: 'y' in 'they'	+	-	-	-	-	-
p. 141, baseline: page numeral		+	+	+	+	-
p. 239, line 2: 'who'	+	+	+	+	-	-
p. 331, headline: page numeral		-	-	+	+	+
p. 368, last line: 's' in 'Fyne's'	-	-	+	+	+	+
p. 387, last line: 'spectable'	+	+	+	+	-	-
p. 403, last line: first two words, especially 'out'	+	-	-	-	-	-
p. 461, last two lines: 'that a'	+	+	+	+	-	-

+ represents unbroken type; - represents broken type. Type wear indicated under '1913' is the same in both the pre-publication state and the published state of the first printing as only the prelims were cancelled. Type wear indicated under '1915' is the same in the 'Deep Sea' format printing and the standard cloth format printing. From the above it is clear that 1914a more closely resembles 1913 and 1914d is closer to 1915, with 1914b and 1914c holding a middle position. After the four 1914 printings *Chance* was twice reprinted in 1915: once in the standard cloth format, and once for issue in the limp leather 'Deep Sea' format. Another printing from the first

American edition plates was made in 1920 and a final one followed in 1921 after which the new setting made for the 'Sun-Dial' edition was used.

C. Second English editon.

On 2 May 1924 Methuen ordered 5,000 copies of *Chance* printed from a new setting of type for publication at 3s. 6d. This edition contains 351 pages of text. It was reprinted 1st printing, 2 May 1924, 5000 (3s. 6d.); 2nd printing, 11 May 1925, 2000 (3s. 6d.); 3rd printing, 22 May 1926; 3000 (2s. 6d.); 4th printing, 16 Nov 1926, 5,450 (2s.); 5th printing, 1927; '23rd' printing, 5 Apr 1929, 1000 (3s. 6d.); 6th printing, 18 Nov 1929, 300 (2s.)

D. Second American edition.

(1) First American printing

Published as volume XIII 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. XIII, below).

E. Third English edition.

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