

A21 THE SHADOW-LINE 1917

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

[*within a single rule border*] [*within a single rule frame*] JOSEPH CONRAD | [*below the frame, rule*] | THE | [*in red*] SHADOW-LINE | A CONFESSION | “Worthy of my undying regard” | [*ship device*] | LONDON & TORONTO | [*in red*] J. M. DENT & SONS LTD. | PARIS: J. M. DENT ET FILS

Collation: π^4 A-P⁸ Q⁴; pp. [2] [i-vi] [1-3] 4-227 [228] ₂1-18 [2]; 185 x 123 mm.; printed on both laid and wove paper. (Copies printed on wove paper may have been intended for the colonial issue; see notes under *first printing*, below.)

Contents: first two pages, blank; p. i, half-title ‘THE SHADOW-LINE’; p. ii, list of five works by Conrad; p. iii, title; p. iv, ‘FIRST ISSUE OF THIS EDITION · March 1917 | *All rights reserved*’; p. v, dedication ‘TO | BORYS AND ALL OTHERS | WHO LIKE HIMSELF HAVE CROSSED | IN EARLY YOUTH THE SHADOW-LINE | OF THEIR GENERATION | WITH LOVE’; p. vi, blank; p. 1, sectional title ‘I’; p. 2, blank; pp. 3-227, text; p. 228, printer’s dandelion device lettered ‘THE | TEMPLE PRESS | LETCHWORTH | ENGLAND’; pp. ₂1-18, publisher’s advertisements; last two pages, blank.

Binding: Varying shades of grey-green vertically ribbed cloth. Front cover stamped in brown ‘[*within a series of four ornamental rules*] THE | SHADOW | LINE | [*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*] | THE | SHADOW | LINE | A | Confession | [*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. White wove paper dust jacket printed in red and olive green, with a portrait of Conrad on the front.

Copies examined:(2) *First printing, colonial issue*

No copy located. Dent records state that 600 of the 5080 copies from the first printing were issued in their colonial cloth binding.

Notes

First printing: According to his notation on the last page of the manuscript, Conrad finished *The Shadow-Line* on 15 December 1915. It was first serialized in the *Metropolitan Magazine* in September and October 1916 and then in the *English Review* from September 1916 through March 1917. The first English edition appeared in March and the first American edition in April 1917. The texts vary. The *English Review* version was substantially revised for the copy text provided for both the English and American editions. As was his habit, Conrad continued polishing while reading proof. His corrected proofs, preserved in the Beinecke Library at Yale University, bear the date stamp “The Temple Press, Letchworth, Feb. 15 1917”. Possibly, by the time he returned these

to Dent it was too late to forward the corrections to Doubleday, Page. In any event, these final changes are incorporated in the English but not the American edition.

The first Dent printing of *The Shadow-Line* numbered 5080 copies which, according to the preliminary indication in Dent's records, were slated to be issued 3000 copies in the English and 2000 in the colonial markets. The 5000 copies ordered plus 80 overs were received on 2 March 1917 and the initial binding orders for 2500 English and 600 colonial copies were placed March 5th. All the remaining copies from the first printing were ordered bound for the English issue between March 12th and 19th.

As no cancel titles were ordered it would appear the colonial copies from the first printing were not identified on their title or half-title pages. However, copies have been seen printed on wove as well as on laid paper and it is possible that the former, which bulk $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch less than those on laid paper, may have been intended for the colonial issue. Until copies in the colonial binding are found this remains speculative, though supported somewhat by collateral evidence: the three depository copies examined (British Museum, Bodleian, and National Library of Scotland), the publisher's file copy, and the copy Conrad inscribed to his wife, March 1917, are all on laid paper; exclusive of these copies, all preserved for special reasons, sixteen copies have been examined and of these eleven are on laid and five on wove paper, a ratio closely in line with that of the 3000 English copies ordered printed to the 1400 colonial copies transferred to the English issue.

Publication: Domestic issue, 19 March 1917 at 5 s. The British Museum depository copy was received 15 March 1917.

Subsequent printings: A second printing of 3900 copies, noted in Dent's ledgers as 2200 English and 1700 colonial, was ordered before the end of March. Receipt of the domestic and colonial issue copies is separately recorded in the ledger, an indication that, in the second printing, colonial copies were identified on their title page and not merely by a distinctive binding. By May 9th it was decided that more domestic issue copies would be required and an order was placed for 1700 four-page cancels⁵⁷ against the possible transfer of the entire colonial issue to the English trade. Ultimately, of the 1700 colonial copies 600 were issued in the colonial binding and the remaining 1100 were supplied with cancel titles and issued domestically.

The verso of the second printing title page reads: 'FIRST ISSUE OF THIS EDITION. *March 1917 | reprinted . . . March 1917 | all rights reserved*'; the verso of the cancel title page reads: 'FIRST PUBLISHED . . *March 1917 | REPRINTED. . . March 1917; May 1917 | All rights reserved*'. Thus, colonial copies from the second printing issued with the domestic cancel title page have the appearance of being from a third printing.

The actual third printing, 500 copies, was ordered in September 1918. It was followed by the fourth and final printing from the first English edition setting, 1250 copies, ordered in June 1920. The last of the fourth printing copies were not bound until January 1930 after which the edition was allowed to go out of print.

B. First American edition.

(1) First printing

[within a double rule border] THE | SHADOW LINE | A CONFESSION | [two rules | By JOSEPH CONRAD | [publisher's device] | "Worthy of my undying regard" | GARDEN CITY NEW YORK | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | 1917

Collation: [1–13]⁸; pp. [i–vi] [1–2] 3–197 [198] [4]; 187 x 126 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. i, half-title 'THE SHADOW LINE | [*circular ship device*]'; p. ii, list of seventeen works by Conrad plus the two collaborations with Ford; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'Copyright, 1917, by | DOUBLEDAY PAGE & COMPANY | All rights reserved, including that of | translation into foreign languages, | including the Scandinavian | COPYRIGHT, 1916, BY METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE COMPANY'; p. v, dedication 'TO | BORYS | AND ALL OTHERS WHO, LIKE HIMSELF, HAVE CROSSED | IN EARLY YOUTH THE SHADOW LINE OF | THEIR GENERATION WITH LOVE'; p. vi, blank; p. 1, sectional title 'PART ONE'; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–197, text; p. 198, '[*printer's device*] | THE COUNTRY LIFE PRESS | GARDEN CITY, N. Y.'; last four 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*] THE | SHADOW LINE | [*rule*] | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold 'THE | SHADOW LINE | [*rule*] | JOSEPH | CONRAD | DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers. Dust jacket of light blue wove paper printed in gold and dark blue.

Copies examined:

(2) *Second printing*

Title page as in the first printing.

Collation: [1–13]⁸; pp. [i–vi] [1–2] 3–197 [198] [4]; 181 x 113 mm.; printed on sized wove paper.

Contents: As in the first printing.

Binding: Blue-green limp leather. Front cover stamped in gold '[*within an architectural frame, a gold panel with lettering in cover leather*] THE | SHADOW | LINE | JOSEPH | CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold '[*ship device*] | [*two rules*] | THE | SHADOW | LINE | CONRAD | [*rule above a scroll*] | DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' All edges trimmed, top edge gilt. White wove end-papers printed in blue-green and pink with a seascape, two leaves of white wove paper binder's inserts at front and at back. Dust jacket of white wove paper printed in green.

Copies examined:

Notes

First printing: The first American edition of *The Shadow-Line* was set from first English edition proofs supplied by Dent. Because the further changes which Conrad made while the book was in proof were incorporated in the English edition but were not forwarded to Doubleday, the American edition provides an interesting intermediate text between the *English Review* and the first Dent edition, showing the extensive changes made from the serial to copy text for the book⁵⁸ as well as the further polishing which took place in proof.⁵⁹ It also shows, in the readings which have no authority in the manuscript, the corrected proofs, or in the other printed versions, the freedom with which Doubleday's editors emended the text and, occasionally, corrected Conrad's grammar.⁶⁰

Conrad's remarks about this edition, in a post script to an undated letter to Pinker written after publication of *The Shadow Line*, show that he re-read his books in each edition in which they appeared:

"Yes. Aren't the misprints in Am. Edition exasperating! I didn't like to worry you with it before but since you feel like this will you my dear fellow arrange (if at all possible) that the proofs that go to US (for setting up) are the 'revise' English proofs; and that D. Page & Co. send me a set of

proofs to look over. The S. Line has some horrible misprints and was obviously set up from first proofs.”

As was usual with Doubleday, Page’s first editions of Conrad’s books from 1915, *The Shadow-Line* was printed on unsized and on sized paper for simultaneous publication in both the cloth and the limp-leather “Deep Sea” formats. In their copyright application of 2 May 1917⁶¹, the publishers state that printing was completed April 10th but the application does not indicate whether that date applies to the printing of the cloth or of the “Deep Sea” copies or, perchance, of both. However, comparison of type wear between the two printings shows that the copies from the cloth bound format went through the press first. A number of plates which were perfect for the printing of the cloth bound copies were chipped or damaged on the edges, probably while taking them in and out of the press between printings, before the “Deep Sea” copies were run. The damaged type which is evident in the “Deep Sea” printing also appears in the third printing. From all indications, publication of copies from both printings was simultaneous. The number of copies printed in each is not recorded.

Publication: 27 April 1917 as \$1.35 in cloth and \$1.75 in leather. Both printings were advertised in *Publishers’ Weekly*, 21 April 1917. The two Library of Congress depository copies, both in the cloth bound format, were received May 2nd.

Subsequent printings: The third and final printing from the plates of the first American edition was made in 1923 and was issued in the limp leather “Deep Sea” format.

C. Second American edition.

(1) First American printing

Published in volume XIV 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. XIV below).

D. Second English edition.

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