

A53 PREFACE TO JESSIE CONRAD'S *A HANDBOOK OF COOKERY* 1921

Simple Cooking Precepts. | for a Little House. | By | Jessie Conrad. | [*clover leaf*] | With Preface by Joseph Conrad.

Collation: [1]⁴; pp. [1–8]; 206 x 129 mm.; printed on laid paper watermarked '[*crown*] | [*hollow letter*] THE EFFRA'.

Contents: p. 1, title; p. 2, blank; pp. 3–6, text of the preface; pp. 7–8, blank.

Binding: Issued unbound; stapled.

Copies examined:

Notes

On November 29, 1921, Conrad's secretary, Miss Hallowes, wrote the following letter⁷¹:

Dear Sir,

Mr Joseph Conrad asks me to tell you that the Preface was written ten or twelve years ago on the occasion of a half jocular suggestion by a friend that Mrs. Conrad should write a Cookery Book. But it was only last year while detained indoors and often laid up in consequence of a serious operation that Mrs. Conrad was induced to take up the old suggestion. The manuscript has been completed about a month ago and it will be published probably early next year by Messrs. Doubleday, Page, in the U.S., and by the firm Wm. Heinemann in England.

The Preface was published separately and in that particular form simply for people who would like to have everything published by Joseph Conrad but may not care to have a Cookery Book on their shelves.

Yours truly, L.M. Hallowes

P.S. I want to call your attention to the fact that the title of the Cookery Book has been changed from what appears on the title page of the pamphlet to "A Handbook of Cookery for a Little House," and it will appear under that title.

This preface to Jessie's cookery book shares the distinction with the preface to *The Nigger of the "Narcissus"* of probably having been ordered printed by Conrad himself rather than by one of those pamphlet manufacturers who were responsible for most of the "privately printed" works recorded in this bibliography. Miss Hallowes states that the preface was written "ten or twelve years ago" (sometime between 1909 and 1911) but does not say when the separate printing occurred, though clearly it must have been before her November 1921 letter. A guess would place it in the early fall of 1921.

The title of Jessie's book appears as *Simple Cooking Precepts for a Little House* in the separate printing of the preface. By the time Miss Hallowes wrote her November 29 letter the title had become *A Handbook of Cookery for a Little House*. However, before publication of the book was finally accomplished in February 1923, "Little House", echoed by Conrad's remark in the preface, "I introduce this little book to the inhabitants of the little houses who are the arbiters of the nation's destiny", was altered in the title to "Small House". There had also been one change in the preface: "painstaking exposition" in the final paragraph was revised to read "clear and concise exposition". The August 1922 publication of the preface in *The Delineator* contains the earlier reading,

indication that Conrad, even with such a minor piece of writing, took trouble to read the proofs for the preface of the book though they must have come to him at least a year after the printing of the pamphlet.

Wise states that 100 copies were printed, ninety of which were for sale and ten for the author, but unlike the other pamphlets no reference has been found in Conrad's letters to the sale of copies of the preface to Jessie's book. While it is likely a few copies may have been sold to collectors, it is also likely that others were given not only to Conrad's friends but also to reviewers and others who might promote sales of the cookery book. All copies examined are numbered and signed by Conrad on the title page.

A56 THE DOVER PATROL 1922

A. First printing.

[wrapper title] THE DOVER PATROL. | A TRIBUTE. | BY | JOSEPH
CONRAD. | CANTERBURY: | PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION BY | H. J.
GOULDEN, LIMITED. | 1922.

Collation: [1]⁸; pp. [1] 2–14 [2]; 205 x 130 mm.; printed on laid paper watermarked '[ram's head] | ORIGINAL | CHATHAM MILLS | KENT' in hollow letters.

Contents: pp. 1–14, text; last two pages, blank.

Binding: White wove paper wrappers coated pale turquoise on the outer surface. Front wrapper printed in black with the title. All edges trimmed. No end-papers. Stapled.

Copies examined:

B. Second Printing:

THE DOVER PATROL. | A TRIBUTE. | BY | JOSEPH
CONRAD. | CANTERBURY: | PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION BY | H. J.
GOULDEN, LIMITED. | 1922.

Collation: [1]¹⁰; pp. [i-iv] [1] 2–14 [2]; 210 x 134 mm.; printed on laid paper [not watermarked].

Contents: p. i, title; p. ii, blank; p. iii, half-title 'THE DOVER PATROL.'; p. iv, blank; pp. 1–14, text; last two pages, blank.

Binding: White wove paper wrappers coated pale turquoise on the outer surface. Front wrapper printed in black with a repeat of the title page. All edges untrimmed. No end-papers. Sewn.

Copies examined:

Notes

For notes on "The Dover Patrol" see below under "John Galsworthy".

A57 JOHN GALSWORTHY 1922

A. First printing:

[*wrapper title*] JOHN GALSWORTHY. | AN APPRECIATION. | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD. | CANTERBURY: | PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION BY | H. J. GOULDEN, LIMITED. | 1922.

Collation: [1]⁸; pp. [1] 2–13 [14] [2]; 206 x 128 mm.; printed on laid paper watermarked ‘[*ram*’s head] | ORIGINAL | CHATHAM MILLS | KENT’ in hollow letters.

Contents: pp. 1–13, text; p. 14 and the last two pages, blank.

Binding: White wove paper wrappers coated pale turquoise on the outer side. Front wrapper printed in black with the title. All edges trimmed. No end-papers. Stapled.

Copies examined:

B. Second printing:

JOHN GALSWORTHY. | AN APPRECIATION. | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD. | CANTERBURY: | PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION BY | H. J. GOULDEN, LIMITED. | 1922.

Collation: [1]¹⁰; pp. [i-iv] [1] 2–13 [14] [2]; 210 x 134 mm.; printed on laid paper [not watermarked].

Contents: p. i, title; p. ii, blank; p. iii, half-title ‘JOHN GALSWORTHY.’; p. iv, blank pp. 1–13, text; p. 14 and the last two pages, blank.

Binding: White wove paper wrappers coated pale turquoise on the outer surface. Front wrapper printed in black with a repeat of the title page. All edges trimmed. No end-papers. Sewn.

Copies examined:

Notes

Two printings of “The Dover Patrol” and of “John Galsworthy” were made in 1922. Some years later H.J. Goulden, the printer, reported to Bertram Rota that Conrad had objected to the copies originally run off because there was no title page except the outside printed wrapper. So, to please the author, a title page and half-title were added, the type re-imposed for gathering in quires of ten leaves, and a new printing made. As late as 1951 copies of the original printing were in the printer’s stock. These he sold to Bertram Rota who offered them for sale in his catalogue 88, issued that year, and first related the history repeated here.

While Bertram Rota has retained no record of the number of copies they acquired, presumably it was only a few of each. Copies from the second printing of both pamphlets are much more common than copies from the first printings.

“The Dover Patrol” is reprinted from *The Times*, 27 July 1921, and “John Galsworthy”, a review of Galsworthy’s *A Man of Property*, is reprinted from *Outlook* (London), 31 March 1906, where it appeared under the title “A Middle Class Family”. Both were collected in *Last Essays*.