

A67 TALES OF HEARSAY 1925

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

TALES OF HEARSAY | By JOSEPH CONRAD | WITH A PREFACE BY | R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM | T. FISHER UNWIN LTD | LONDON: ADELPHI TERRACE

Collation: [A]⁸ B-S⁸; pp. [1–6] 7–287 [288]; 196 x 128 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. 1, half-title 'TALES OF HEARSAY'; p. 2, publisher's advertisement for five works by Conrad; p. 3, title; p. 4, '*First published in 1925 | (All rights reserved)*'; p. 5, eight line notice concerning the title of the book; p. 6, blank; pp. 7–28, 'PREFACE' signed 'R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM.'; p. 29, 'CONTENTS'; p. 30, blank; pp. 31–288, text; on p. 288, '*[short rule] | Printed in Great Britain by | UNWIN BROTHERS, LIMITED, LONDON AND WOKING*'.

Binding: Dark green vertically ribbed cloth. Front cover stamped in gold 'TALES OF | HEARSAY | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold '*[within a single rule frame]* TALES | OF | HEARSAY | JOSEPH | CONRAD | *[below the first frame, within a second single rule frame]* T. FISHER UNWIN'. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers. Dust wrapper of white wove paper printed in brown and black.

Some copies rubber stamped in red on the verso of the title page 'PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN'

BM depository copy received 19 Jan 1925

Bodleian depository copy received 2[?] Jan 1925 (date stamp only partially legible)

Copies examined: BM
BM-Ashley
Bodleian
Huntington

Texas (3)
WRC

(2). First impression, colonial issue

TALES OF HEARSAY | By JOSEPH CONRAD | WITH A PREFACE BY | R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM | OVERSEAS EDITION | T. FISHER UNWIN LTD | LONDON: ADELPHI TERRACE

Collation: Collation, pagination, measurements and paper as in the first domestic issue.

Contents: As in the first domestic issue.

Binding: Red vertically ribbed cloth. Stamping as in the first domestic issue binding. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers. Dust jacket of white wove paper printed in black, grey, red and orange with an illustration of ships and gulls on the front by E. Lucchesi.

Listed in *English Catalogue of Books* as published at 3s 6d, May 1926. "Overseas Edition"

Copies examined: Lilly

(3). *First impression, Canadian issue*

TALES OF HEARSAY | By JOSEPH CONRAD | WITH A PREFACE BY | R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM | THE RYERSON PRESS | TORONTO

Collation: Collation, pagination, measurements and paper as in the domestic issue.

Contents: As in the first domestic issue except p. 2, blank; p. 4, 'PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN'.

Binding: Red vertically ribbed cloth. Front cover stamped in gold 'TALES OF | HEARSAY | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gold '[within a single rule frame] TALES | OF | HEARSAY | JOSEPH CONRAD | [below the frame] THE RYERSON PRESS'. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers. No specimen of the dust jacket seen.

(4). *First impression, second domestic issue*

TALES OF | HEARSAY | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | *With a Preface by* | R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM | London | EVELEIGH NASH & GRAYSON LTD. | 148 Strand

Collation: [A]⁸(-A1,2 +A1.2) B-S⁸; pp. [1-6] 7-287 [288]; 186 x 122 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: p. 1, half-title '{bl}Nash's Famous Fiction Library{ / bl} | TALES OF HEARSAY'; p. 2, publisher's advertisement listing 28 titles; p. 3, title; p. 4, '(All rights reserved)'; p. 5, eight line notice concerning the title of this book; p. 6, blank; pp. 7-28, 'PREFACE' signed 'R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM.'; p. 29, 'CONTENTS'; p. 30, blank; pp. 31-288, text; on p. 288, '[short rule] | Printed in Great Britain by | UNWIN BROTHERS, LIMITED, LONDON AND WOKING'.

Binding: Blue smooth cloth. Front cover stamped in blind '[within a single rule frame] TALES | OF | HEARSAY | BY | JOSEPH | CONRAD'; spine stamped in gilt '[rule] | TALES | OF | HEARSAY | JOSEPH | CONRAD | NASH & GRAYSON | [rule]'. All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers.

Listed in *English Catalogue of Books* as published Jan 1927 at 2s 6d.

Copies examined: BM - deposited 21 Jan 1927
Lilly

Notes

First printing: *Tales of Hearsay* is a gathering up of loose ends, a posthumous collection of four stories published during Conrad's lifetime in magazines but not yet brought out in book form. The order in which they are presented in the volume is the reverse of that in which they were written. "The Warrior's Soul" was Conrad's last short story and had been published in *Land and Water*, 29 March 1917, and then privately reprinted by T. J. Wise in 1920 (See A48, above); "Prince Roman" appeared in the *Oxford and Cambridge Review*, October 1911, and was privately reprinted by Wise in 1920 (see A47, above); "The Tale" was first published in *The Strand Magazine*, October 1917, and privately reprinted by Clement Shorter in 1919 (see A31, above); "The Black Mate" appeared in *The London Magazine*, April 1908, and was privately reprinted by Wise for Conrad in 1922 (see A55, above). The Wise and Shorter pamphlet reprinting, basically follow the magazine texts: They vary in punctuation, capitalization and, occasionally, in paragraphing, but are largely free of substantive authorial revisions.

However, a comparison of the magazine pamphlet texts with the stories as collected in *Tales of Hearsay* reveals a number of changes which have the appearance of being authorial rather than editorial. "The Warrior's Soul," the most heavily revised of the four stories, contains twenty-nine altered readings from the first column of the text alone in *Land and Water* and the corresponding part in *Tales of Hearsay*. "The Black Mate" also contains a number of changes of the sort Conrad tended to make when preparing a work for the printer. For example, the phrase "But of that later on" becomes "never mind just now" in the book (p. 210,

lines 6–7); “neither much respected nor much liked” becomes “without being much respected or liked” (p. 212, lines 6–7 up); “When in company of his fellows” becomes “In the company of his fellows” (p. 212, lines 5–6 up); “Captain Bell” becomes “Captain Sellers” (p. 213, lines 9–10 up); and “ascetic scholar, a sedentary, mild, man of books; Captain Hals, a bluff sea-dog with hairy fingers, in blue serge and a round, black hat” becomes “ascetical mild man of books; Captain Hell, a bluff sea-dog with hairy fingers, in blue serge and a black felt hat”. The changes which occur in “Prince Roman” are slighter in nature, normally word substitutions or an occasional rearrangement of word order *, yet probably still attributable to Conrad. Revisions in the remaining story, “The Tale”, are slighter than in the other three amounting to occasional word substitutions and minor variations in punctuation.

All in all, these variants indicate an intermediary text between the magazine / pamphlet version and the stories as published in *Tales of Hearsay* and, while we have no definite evidence, it is possible Conrad had revised the stories during the last years of his life for book form publication and that this revision served as copytext for the present volume. While this remains speculative, it is worth noting the changes exist.

No records are known to survive from T. Fischer Unwin’s firm so the detailed history of the publication of this volume remains sketchy. We know that Unwin had approached Conrad at various times in his later career to enquire about publishing another novel or collection of stories and had in recent years published both *The Arrow of Gold* and *The Rover* so it is not surprising Pinker approached him with the suggestion he consider this volume of stories. Unwin accepted the offer and decided to publish the book both in the regular domestic issue at 7s 6d and also in his “Overseas Edition” which must have been the swan song of the “Colonial editions” created almost exactly a hundred years earlier by John Murray. The handling of the Canadian rights is even less clear. Doubleday, Page had arranged to provide sheets to S. B. Gundy of Toronto for publication in Canada. Yet there is also a Canadian issue of the Unwin sheets with the Ryerson Press in print. The exact date of the letter is not known but the fifth page is an integral part of the initial signature and, presumably, was printed at the time of the first and only printing of this edition. If that is so it would appear Doubleday, Page sold the Canadian rights to Gundy at the same time Unwin sold them to Ryerson Press but, in the absence of publishers’ records, the case remains open to further investigation.

The sale of domestic copies was slow and two years after publication Unwin sold his remaining stock to Eveleigh Nash and Grayson who issued the Unwin sheets with cancel title and half title pages in their “Nash’s Famous Fiction Library”.

Publication: First domestic issue, 23 January 1925, at 7s 6d. The British Museum depository copy was received 21 January 1925. The “Overseas Edition” was published in May 1926 at 3s 6d. and the Nash and Grayson reissue in January 1927 at 2s 6d. The date and price of the Canadian issue has not been noted.

Subsequent printings: There were no farther reprintings from the first English edition. Later copies of *Tales of Hearsay* derive from the “Sun-Dial Edition” of the Collected Works.

Examples are “great-grandfather” becomes “grandfather” in the book (p. 96, line 10); “boy of nine” becomes “boy of eight” (p. 98, line 8); “almost every winter brings” becomes “every winter almost brings” (p. 101, lines 5–6); “neck-cloth” becomes “cambric neck-cloth” (p. 102, lines 5–6 up); “collar lying close” becomes “collar close” (p. 102, lines 4–5 up); “faded and still” becomes “dark and still” (p. 104, lines 4–5); “down in silence” becomes “down at me” (p. 105, line 10 up); “easy to die” becomes “easy for her to die” (p. 109, lines 2–3); “awful” becomes “alarming” (p. 109, lines 6–7).

B. First American edition.

(1). First impression, domestic issue

[within a single rule border printed in orange] [within a double rule border] TALES
OF | HEARSAY | [two rules] | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | WITH A PREFACE BY | R. B.
CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM | [on a blind stamped panel within a blind stamped oval frame, in orange:
publisher’s device] | GARDEN CITY NEW YORK | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | 1925

Collation:[1]8+1(1₂+1) [2–9]⁸; pp. [2] [i–vi] vii–xv [xvi–xx] 1–120 [4]; 186 x 127 mm.; printed on wove paper.

Contents: first two pages, blank; p. i, half-title 'TALES OF HEARSAY'; p. ii, list of twenty-three works by Conrad plus the three collaborations with Ford; p. iii, title; p. iv, 'COPYRIGHT, 1925, BY | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | ALL RIGHTS RESERVED | COPYRIGHT, 1911, 1917, 1918, BY THE METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE CO. | PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES | AT | THE COUNTRY LIFE PRESS, GARDEN CITY, N. Y. | *First Edition*'; p. v, 'NOTE' concerning the title of this book; p. vi, blank; pp. vii-xv, 'PREFACE' signed 'R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM.'; p. xvi, blank; p. xvii, 'CONTENTS'; p. xviii, blank; p. xix, sectional title 'THE WARRIOR'S SOUL'; p. xx, blank; p. 1-120, text; last four pages, blank.

Binding: Dark blue linen finish cloth. Front cover stamped in gilt '[within a frame of two rules terminating at the base in a circular ship device, a gilt panel with lettering in cover cloth] TALES | OF HEARSAY | [rule] | JOSEPH CONRAD'; spine stamped in gilt 'TALES OF | HEARSAY | [rule] | JOSEPH | CONRAD | DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' All edges trimmed. White wove end-papers. Dust wrapper of light blue wove paper printed in dark blue.

L. C. Depository copy received 12 Feb 1925

Copies examined: Lilly
Texas (3)
L. C. dep

(2). *First impression, Canadian issue*

[within a single rule border printed in orange] [within a double rule border] TALES OF | HEARSAY | [two rules] | BY | JOSEPH CONRAD | WITH A PREFACE BY | R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM | [on a blind stamped panel within a blind stamped oval frame, in orange: publisher's device] | S. B. GUNDY TORONTO | DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY | GRADEN CITY NEW YORK | 1925 (Note: "GRADEN" is an obvious typesetting error for "GARDEN".)

Collation: collation, pagination, measurements, and paper as in the domestic issue.

Contents: As in the domestic issue. Note: The '*First Edition*' statement appears on the verso of the title of the Canadian as well as the domestic issue.

Binding: As in the domestic issue except that 'GUNDY' appears at the foot of the spine in place of 'DOUBLEDAY | PAGE & CO.' Dust wrapper as in the domestic issue except that Gundy replaces Doubleday, Page on the spine.