

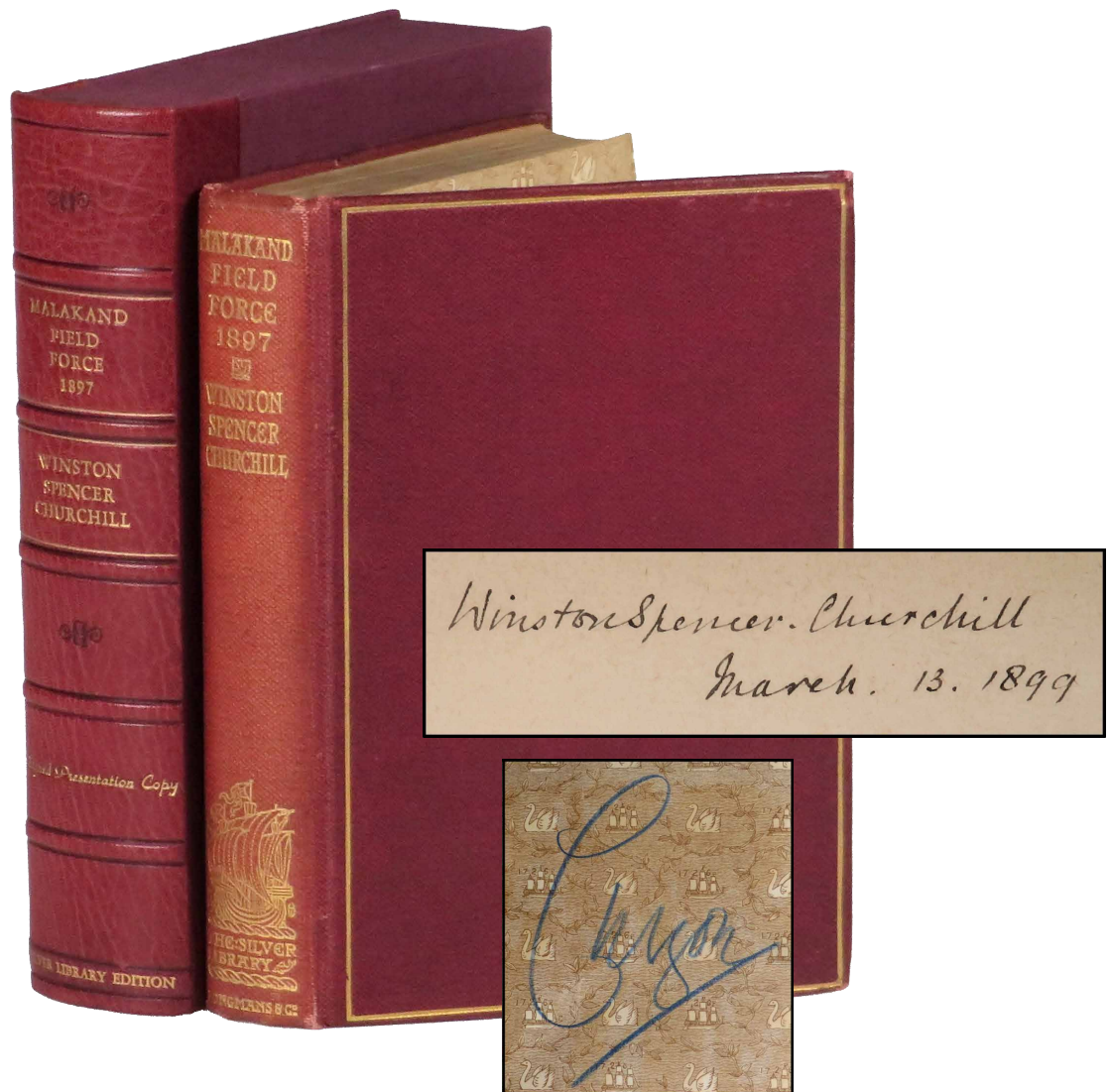
# CHURCHILL

## BOOK COLLECTOR

### INHABITED BY WINSTON

*A collector's curation and prolix presentation  
of compellingly inked and indelibly linked  
books and correspondence by Winston S. Churchill*

2022



*Lord Curzon's copy of Churchill's first published book, signed by Curzon, and inscribed and dated by Churchill in India on 13 March 1899 during Curzon's first months as Viceroy of India*

Churchill Book Collector specializes in material by and about Sir Winston S. Churchill, who was not just an iconic statesman, but also one of the twentieth century's most prolific and accomplished writers, earning the Nobel Prize in Literature.

We also offer noteworthy first and collectible editions by other authors ranging from Xenophon to T. E. Lawrence, spanning exploration and empire to twentieth century literature.

Whatever authors you collect, we are able to help assemble full collections or acquire individual volumes, tailored to accommodate your preferences and budget.

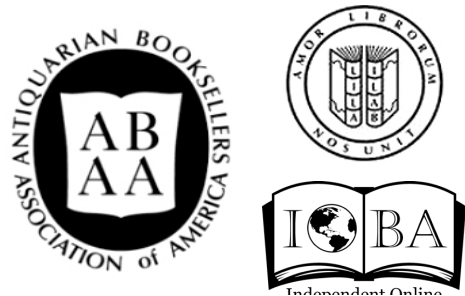
Our full inventory, including detailed descriptions and multiple images of each item we offer, may be searched on our website:

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# CHURCHILL BOOK COLLECTOR

In these pages, you will find Winston Churchill's words, inscriptions, and signatures, in his own hand, spanning more than 66 years of his long life. From 31 August 1896 to 11 October 1962. From his ambitious and untested youth to his venerable twilight. From when Churchill was just 21 years old and his first career as an itinerant cavalry officer and war correspondent was still embryonic, to when, at nearly 88 years old, he had become a "living national memorial" of the time he had lived and the Nation, Empire, and free world he had served.

The items include correspondence sent from his mother's home, his own first bachelor flat, Chartwell, Hyde Park Gate, Hotel de la Mamounia in Marrakech, New York City, Villa Politi in Syracuse, Sicily, and, of course, the Admiralty and Downing Street. Churchill's thoughts in this correspondence range from some of his earliest musings on effective prose composition, to framing and negotiating publication of his Second World War memoirs, to poignant reflection on the loss of one of his "most true and most valued friends". Signatures and inscriptions appear in books ranging from Churchill's first, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, to his late-in-life book-length publication of his thoughts on his famous hobby, *Painting as a Pastime*.

Here's the bit that may surprise; despite the length of this catalogue and the great span of Churchill's life encompassed, there are only 15 items. That's because I had this idea last year...

At Churchill Book Collector, we incline toward lengthy, narrative descriptions for the items we offer. And the more compelling the object, the fuller and more fulsome we tend to wax. In short, we're wordy. And nerdy. This is not an apology. Some objects have a story to tell and we love to suss out and share these stories.

So why not steer into the proverbial curve? The idea was that we would pick a small number of truly compelling items and indulge ourselves. We'd tell the stories the way we want to, not confining ourselves to just a few paragraphs, but giving each item the inquiry, consideration, and narrative scope it deserved. And what better place to do that than in a printed catalogue...

Then, as if to embolden the idea, there was *The Sign*.

During the summer I incline to read at least a few books that are not on my everlengthening "To Read" list. This summer, one of my wild card reads was *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald.

No – despite the title this is not a children's book. It is ... well it is an oddly bereft yet emboldening meditation on loss, passion, otherness, and engagement threaded by the life events of the author, the affinities and arcana of falconry, and the peculiarities of the life of T. H. White. Yeah, I know. That's a lot. And I'd love to tell you more about Ms. Macdonald's worthy book. But this is not a book review. I'm supposed to be telling you about *The Sign*.

*The Sign* was buried in Chapter 12 of *H is for Hawk*. There I found this:

*I once asked my friends if they ever held things that gave them a spooky sense of history. Ancient pots with 3,000 year old thumbprints in the clay said one. Antique keys, another. Clay pipes. Dancing shoes from World War II. Roman coins I found in a field. Old bus tickets in second hand books. Everyone agreed that what these small things did was strangely intimate. They gave them the sense as they picked them up and turned them in their fingers of another person, an unknown person a long time ago, who had held that object in their hands. "You don't know anything about them, but you feel the other person's there" one friend told me. "It's like all the years between you and them disappear. Like you become them somehow." History collapses...*

Nested within a greater dialogue of what it means to heed and hold a hawk is this rather lovely explanation of why one might wish to have and hold a book. S is for Surprise. A is for Agree. And this was *The Sign* I needed to justify this catalogue.

We deal primarily in worded objects - books and correspondence and the like, which is what you will find in this catalogue. Such items are collections of words, but they also physical objects with a presence that exceeds the words therein or thereon. This is especially true for each of the items in this catalogue. For us, when we hold each of these objects in our hands, it is as if, in the words of Helen Macdonald, "History collapses..." Call it folding space-time. Call it a conduit. You can describe the feeling using anything from metaphysics to theoretical physics. The essential point is that an object can become not just a representation or evocation of a distant place in time, but a connection to it.

Winston Churchill inhabits each of the 15 items in this catalogue. Each conveys a sense of Churchill's time and place and associations, and, above all, of Churchill himself – who touched and inked each of the items offered.

So... read on. We hope you find some compelling connections, some wonder, and some of Winston. We did.

Cheers!



Browse or search our full inventory at:  
[www.churchillbookcollector.com](http://www.churchillbookcollector.com)



# 1 “... composition is essentially an artificial science.”

A 31 August 1896 autograph letter from Winston S. Churchill to his uncle, Moreton Frewen, articulating some of then-21-year-old Winston’s earliest and clearly formative thoughts on writing, including principles that would guide his luminous literary future, and citing one of his earliest and most significant literary influences

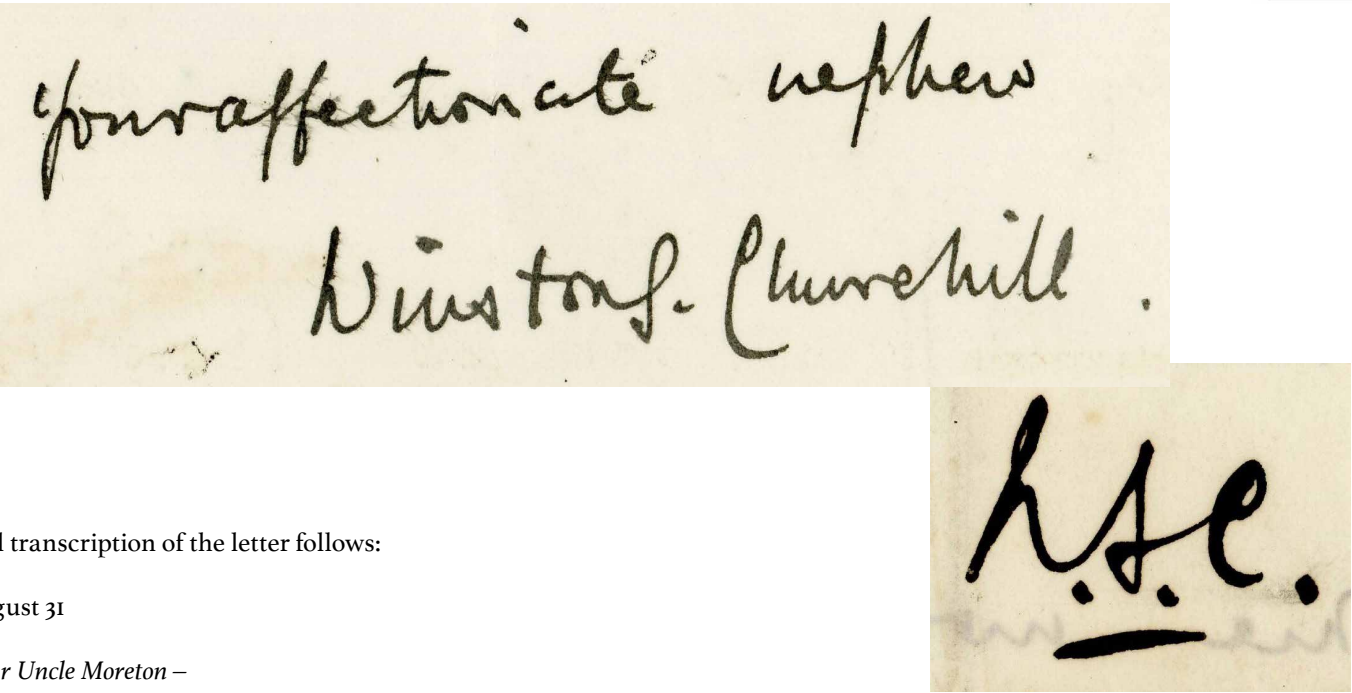
*Westminster, London, 1896*

This 31 August 1896 autograph letter was written by 21-year-old Winston S. Churchill. Addressed to the uncle who would disastrously edit Churchill’s first published book less than two years later, this letter is noteworthy for both timing and content. Churchill had delivered no speeches, written no books, run for no elected office. Almost everything he would become and accomplish lay in the future. Even Churchill’s first career as an itinerant soldier and war correspondent was still embryonic; he had just a handful of published articles to his name and his sole battlefield experience was as a noncombatant observer. Yet in this letter, Churchill shares some of his earliest and clearly formative thoughts on prose composition, articulating principles that would guide his luminous literary future and citing one of his earliest and most significant literary influences. Less than two weeks after he wrote this letter, Churchill deployed to India as a cavalry officer. There, battlefield experience, a growing body of war correspondent despatches, and the literary conceptions articulated in this letter harnessed to his discovery of “a great power of application” began to feed his literary and political ambition. But all of that lay still ahead when this letter was written.

The letter

The letter is written entirely in Churchill’s hand on four panels of laid paper (watermarked “JOYNSON SUPERFINE”) stationery printed with his mother’s address, “35 A, GREAT CUMBERLAND PLACE, | W.” The single 10 x 8 inch (25.4 x 20.3 cm) sheet is folded once vertically to make four panels, with an additional vertical and horizontal fold to each panel, ostensibly for original posting. Churchill signed in full “Winston S. Churchill” following his valediction at the bottom of the third panel and further initialed “W.S.C.” at the end of his postscript on the fourth panel.

Condition of the letter is better than very good. The letter is lightly soiled, particularly at the creases, but nonetheless clear and complete, with none of Churchill’s writing appreciably sunned, spread, or smudged. The letter is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.



Full transcription of the letter follows:

August 31

Dear Uncle Moreton –

I am very grateful to you for your letter and for the encouraging criticisms therein. The only great prose writer I have so far read is Gibbon – who cannot certainly be accused of crispness. It has appeared to me – so far as I have gone – that composition is essentially an artificial science. To make a short sentence – or a series of short sentences tell – they should be sandwiched between lengthy and sonorous periods. The contrast is effective.

This is of course only my opinion – an opinion founded not so much founded on experience as adopted from the necessity of having some views on all subjects. But perhaps you will agree with it all the same.

Once more I thank you for your kindness in writing to me. I know how much you use your typewriter.

Your affectionate nephew

Winston S. Churchill

P.S. I read a charming and interesting article in the S.R. about your brother. I suppose you saw it.

W.S.C.

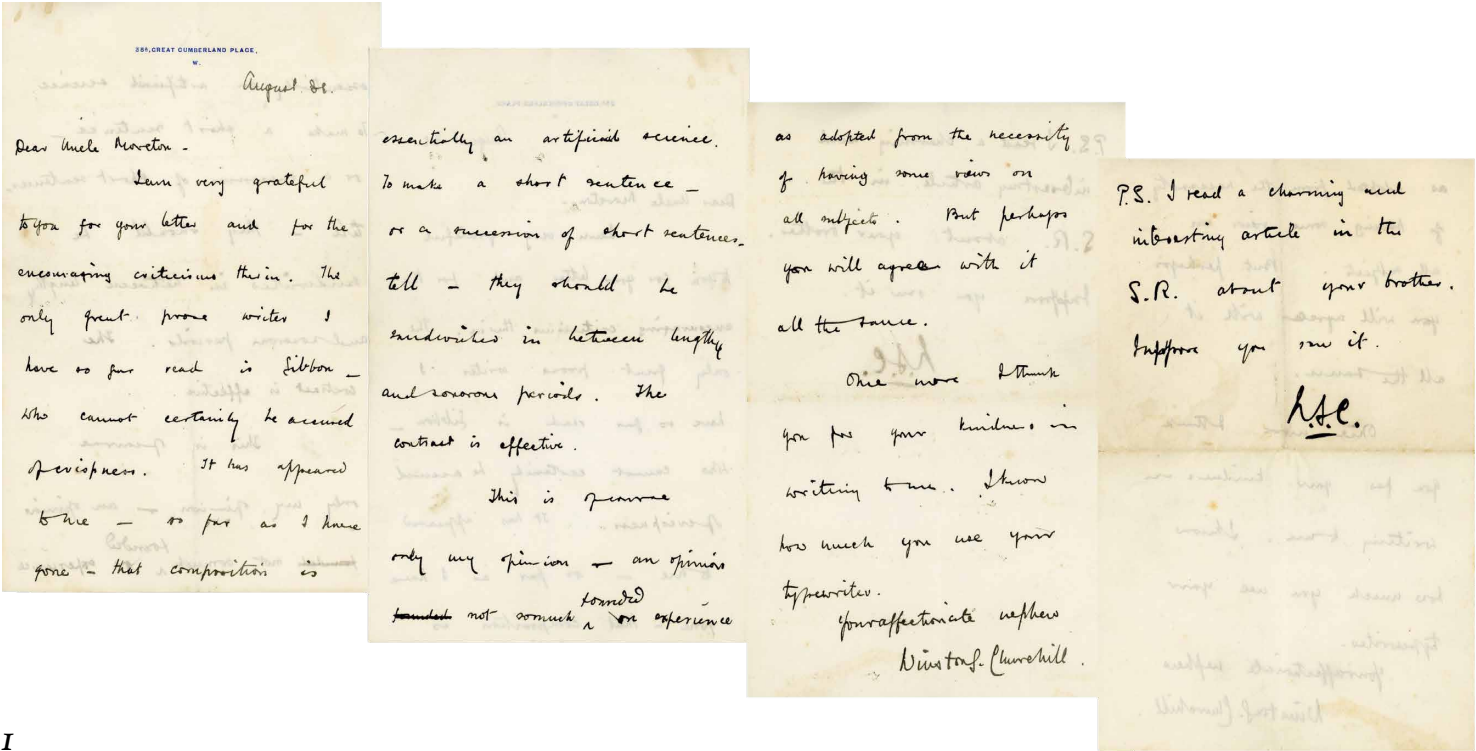
Winston’s correspondent, Hugh Moreton Frewen (1853-1924), was Churchill’s uncle by marriage, husband to Clara, Winston’s mother’s sister and the eldest of the three Jerome sisters.

35 A Great Cumberland Place was owned by Churchill’s mother, Lady Randolph Churchill, from 1895 to 1900. The transit time for correspondence with Moreton Frewen would have been swift, as Lady Randolph’s two sisters were neighbors in 1896. “Clara rented a small house directly opposite, and Leonie stayed in a house near by.” (Kehoe, *Fortune’s Daughters*, p.198)

Churchill is clearly responding to a letter from Moreton containing “encouraging criticisms” and in his postscript refers to “the S.R.” It seems almost certain that Moreton had written to Winston about the latter’s article “The Revolt in Cuba” published on 29 August 1896 (a Saturday) in *Saturday Review*, Vol. LXXXII, No. 2131, at pp. 213-4.

Edward Gibbon’s *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* was a foundational early read in Winston’s newly kindled effort at self-education. This letter is among the earliest evidence of the profoundly influential effect Gibbon had on Churchill’s literary development.

Winston’s comment “I know how much you use your typewriter” is a reference to Moreton’s predilection. “Sometimes he wrote long letters, but usually they were typed on half sheets or were written in a distinctive chirography”. (Fred Shelley, “The Papers of Moreton Frewen” in the *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, Library of Congress, Vol. 6, No. 4, August 1949)





The moment

Winston S. Churchill was just 21 years old when he wrote this letter. He had passed out of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst in December 1894 and, on 1 April 1895, was gazetted to the 4th Queen’s Own Hussars, who that summer “were withdrawn from the Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot” and made “leisurely preparations for their departure the following year for nine years’ service in India. In those peaceful days... officers... were allowed five months’ leave each year... Cavalry subalterns were encouraged to spend the winter fox-hunting.” (R. Churchill, *Vol. I*, p.263) Churchill had other plans. His first taste of both combat and war reporting came on his 21st birthday, 30 November 1895. Having wheedled and finagled the opportunity, Churchill observed fighting between the Spanish and Cubans at Arroyo Blanco, Cuba.

Churchill returned to England from Cuba determined not to languish with his regiment, but rather “sought by every means to find adventure elsewhere”, trying unsuccessfully to become a special correspondent in several theaters of conflict. “Indeed, the manner in which Churchill and his friends and relations kept importuning the War Office led Lord Landsdowne, the Secretary of State for War, to give a friendly warning” to Churchill’s mother: “I am not quite sure... it would be wise on Winston’s part to leave England at this moment.” It seems that sometime during 1896, Churchill began to focus some of his restless energies and ambitions on intellectual self-betterment. Hence Gibbon and this August correspondence with his Uncle Moreton. Nonetheless, leave England Churchill did, less than two weeks after this letter was written - but not for an active theater of war, as he had hoped. Instead, Churchill sailed from Southampton for India in SS. *Britannia* with the 4th Hussars on 11 September 1896.

In India, Churchill would wrangle further opportunity for danger and reportage, culminating in his first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, which he would – to disastrous effect – enlist the aid of Uncle Moreton to proof.

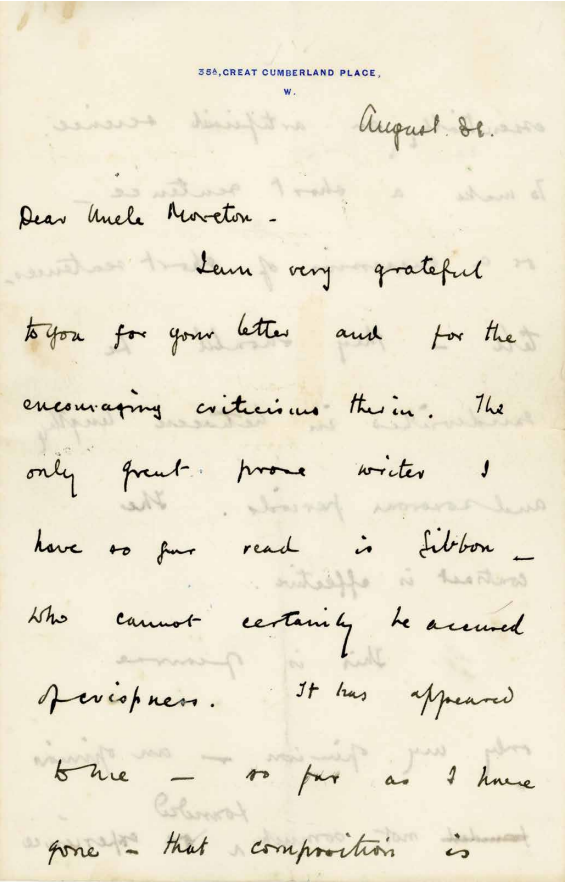
It is difficult to overstate the earliness in Churchill’s literary career of his penned thoughts on the structure of effective writing found in this letter. Churchill would eventually be credited with 58 books, 260 pamphlets, 840 articles, and 9,000 pages of speeches. But when he wrote this letter, he had only half a dozen articles published in the *Daily Graphic* and *Saturday Review* to his credit – and these all on one subject, the revolt in Cuba. Of the many millions of words Churchill would publish, just a scant few thousand had yet appeared in print. Churchill would eventually be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature – but 57 years, 3 months, and 10 days after he wrote this letter.

“the only great prose writer I have read so far is Gibbon”

1896 was the year Churchill began to systematically and resolutely consume books on history, politics, philosophy, science, and ethics. Edward Gibbon’s *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* proved a foundation of the self-education upon which Churchill embarked after realizing the deficiencies of (and perhaps deficient student application to) his formal schooling. As a newly joined subaltern of the 4th Hussars now past his time at Harrow and Sandhurst, Churchill suddenly developed an active interest in a “liberal education”. As his first official biographer later wrote “He thus became his own university.” (R. Churchill, *Vol. I*, p.317)

Churchill wrote to his mother on 31 August 1895, reflecting on his “purely technical education... devoted to studies of which the highest aim was to pass some approaching Examinations. As a result my mind has never received that polish which for instance Oxford or Cambridge gives.” Churchill explicitly stated his intention “to read Gibbon’s Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire...” (R. Churchill, *Vol. I*, p.261) Churchill was clearly in the process of digesting Gibbon in the summer of 1896. He had corresponded with his Harrow Headmaster, Reverend J. E. C. Welldon and had evidently referenced Gibbon, given the postscript following the valediction in Welldon’s 28 September 1896 letter to Churchill: “Gibbon is the greatest of Historians, read him all through.”

Churchill made good both his own good intentions and his erstwhile headmaster’s exhortation. By November 1896, Churchill correspondence with his mother about public affairs already incorporated Gibbon. Writing to his mother on 4 November about notional Cabinet selections, he wrote “...though it is unwise to prophesy till afterwards – you would do well to ‘expect the event’ which is Gibbon for ‘await the result’...” (R. Churchill, *Vol. I*, p.314) Gibbon was not just absorbed and integrated, but actively studied and applied. In response to a criticism from his brother, Jack, Churchill wrote in a 14 February 1897 letter: I am sorry you don’t appreciate or approve of my literary style. Gibbon in his autobiography says: “The habits of correct writing may produce without labour or design the appearance of art and study”. That excuse is good enough for me...” (*The Churchill Documents Volume II*, p.737) On 31 March 1897 he wrote to his mother from India “since I have been in this country... I have hardly looked at a novel.” Churchill reported reading “three or four different books at a time to avoid tedium” and specifically cited among the works he had digested “all Gibbon (begun in England, 4,000 pages)”. (R. Churchill, *Vol. I*, p.333)



“an artificial science”

Churchill’s comments in this letter underscore two conclusions about his nascent literary career. The first is Gibbon’s formative early influence on Churchill. The second is that even in August 1896, at the age of 21, Churchill was already remarkably, even didactically, clear about some of the fundamental principles of composition that would inform his extraordinary oratorical and literary career for the next seven decades.

Beyond doubt, Gibbon conspicuously influenced Churchill’s initial literary voice and conceptions – perhaps sometimes to a fault. Indeed, a *Daily Mail* review of Churchill’s second published book, *The River War* (1899), specifically drew the comparison “...this part is written in the severe style of Gibbon... Mr. Churchill, having the *Decline and Fall* up his sleeve, forgets that only a great occasion justifies the music of the organ.” (7 November 1899 review cited in R. Churchill, *Vol. I*, p.457)

But, as this letter underscores, despite the influence of Gibbon, or Macaulay, or any other stentorian presence he digested, Churchill’s literary voice would become very much his own.

Much has been made – and justly – of a famously unpublished essay Churchill wrote in November of 1897, fifteen months after he wrote this letter in August 1896. Titled *The Scaffolding of Rhetoric*, the essay set forth “six principal elements” of oratory. Principal II, concerning “Rhythm”, includes the following:

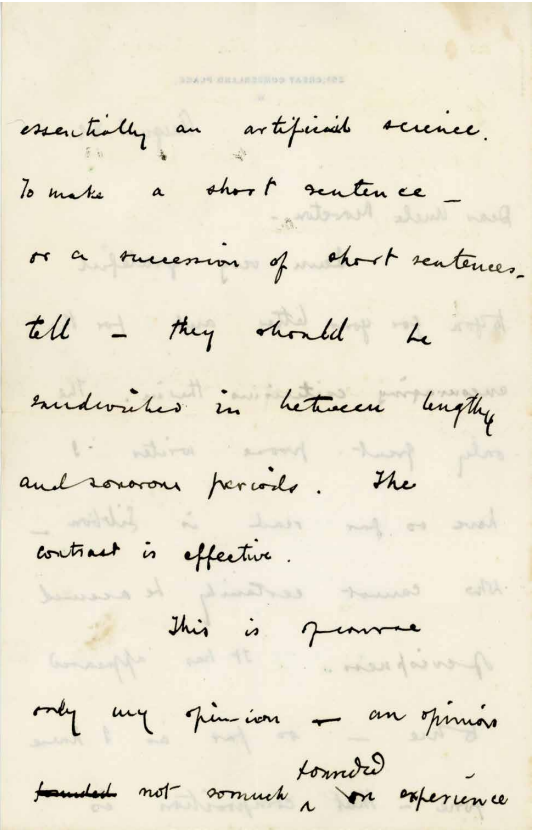
“The great influence of sound on the human brain is well known. The sentences of the orator when he appeals to his art become long, rolling and sonorous. The peculiar balance of the phrases produces a cadence which resembles blank verse rather than prose.”

Compare this to Churchill’s dictum in this letter of August 1896:

“To make a short sentence – or a series of short sentences tell – they should be sandwiched between lengthy and sonorous periods. The contrast is effective.”

In his letter, we find Churchill, perhaps for the first time, beginning to articulate the fundamental principal of rhythm that would characterize the rich and compelling cadences of both his oratory and his prose. Herein Churchill begins articulating the thoughts that would crystallize and cohere into *The Scaffolding of Rhetoric*, in a sense, the first scaffolding of *The Scaffolding*.

It is fascinating to note – again – that Churchill never published *The Scaffolding of Rhetoric*. He published many hundreds of articles and essays, but never this one. Likewise, it is interesting to note the paucity of Churchill quotes about the craft of writing. Churchill may be the most quoted public figure of the twentieth century. Certainly, he is the most prolific and accomplished writer among the statesmen of his – or perhaps any – age. But while he has a great many quotes about how it feels to write a book – about the trials, tedium, and tasks – he offers precious little about *how* to write. We can find Churchill waxing fulsome about his native tongue, and even speaking broadly about such mundanities as paragraphs and brevity. But, for a man who published literally millions of words, Churchill seems positively parsimonious about the inner clockwork of writing, the guiding principles and mechanics, almost like a tradesman jealous of his skills and secrets. Yet here, in this letter, it is the earliest of early days, and young Winston speaks clearly, coherently, and candidly about the “artificial science” of wordsmithing that he would so ingeniously, indomitably, and unequivocally master.

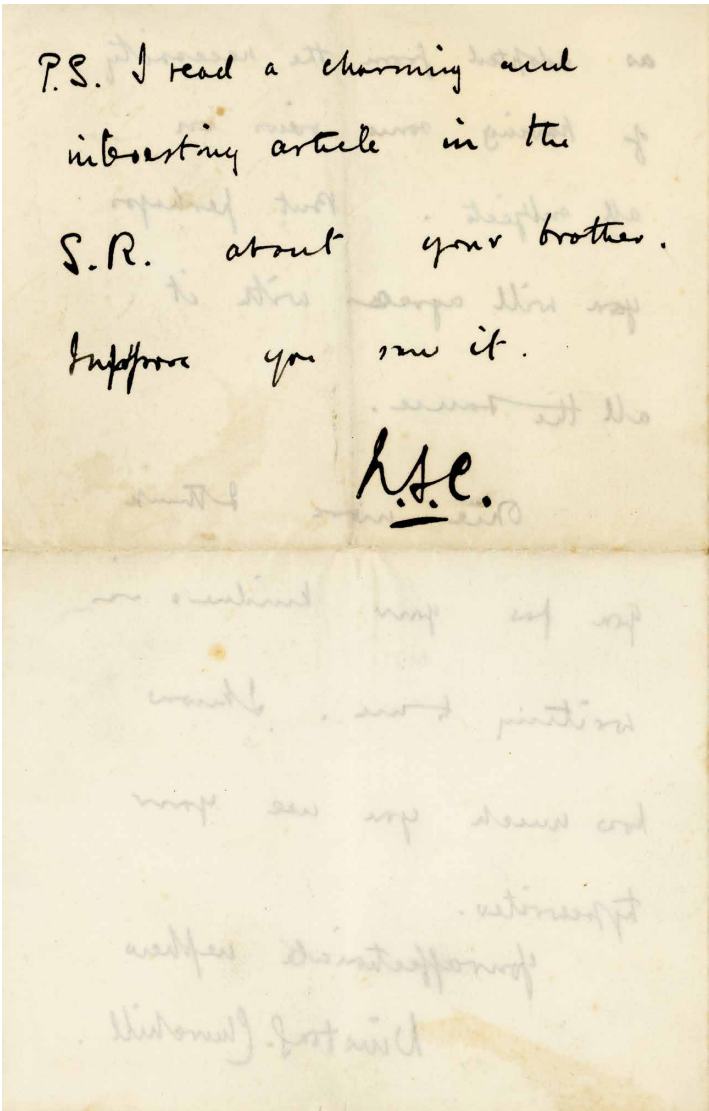
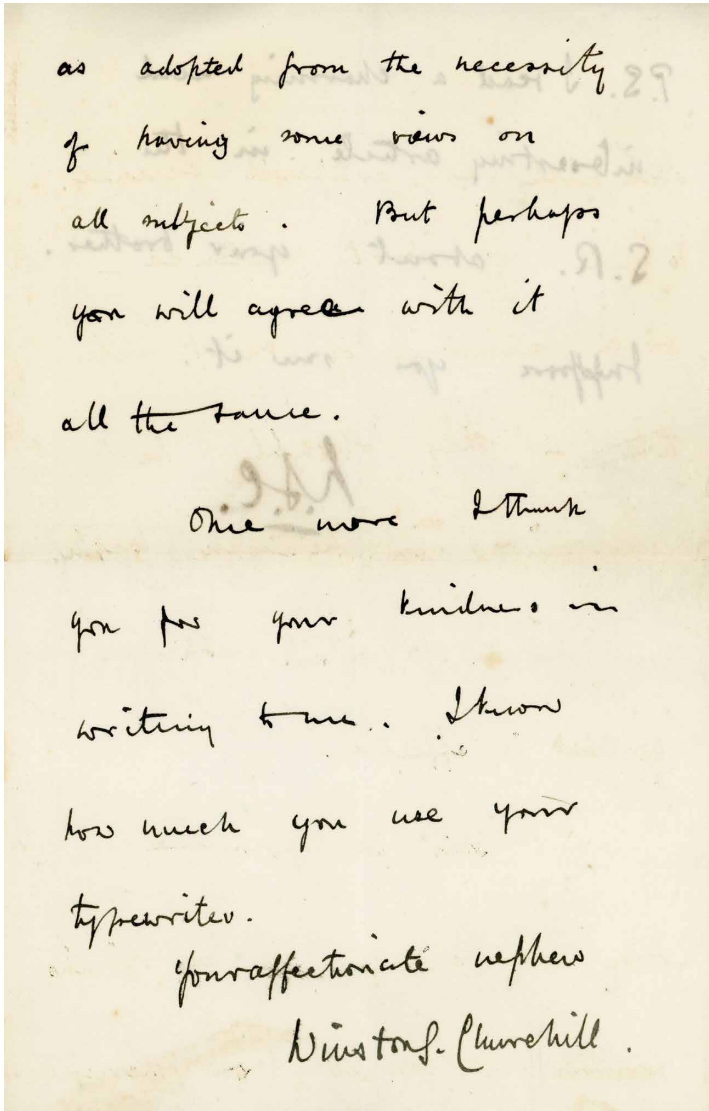




“Your affectionate nephew”

Alas, Churchill’s Uncle Moreton would swiftly prove unequal to being Churchill’s literary guide or even helpmate. Hugh Moreton Frewen had several nicknames, among them “Mortal Ruin” and “Silvertongue”, the latter a tribute to his charisma, but the former a testimony to his capabilities. Moreton “lived a busy, restless life, full of great expectations, seldom realized.” (Fred Shelley, “The Papers of Moreton Frewen” in the *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, Library of Congress, Vol. 6, No. 4, August 1949) He was brave, magnetic, and intelligent, but proclivities for expensive tastes and to wild schemes led him to amass a lifetime of financial failures.

The 1873 marriage of Winston Churchill’s mother, Jennie Jerome, to the son of the Duke of Marlborough both produced Winston Churchill and introduced Jennie’s sisters, Clara and Leonie, to aristocratic England, from which their own marriages would ensue. On 2 June 1881, Clarita “Clara” Jerome (1851-1935) married Hugh Moreton Frewen. Moreton “belonged to an old and distinguished family of the Sussex landed gentry” that was “supremely well connected” but Moreton himself “was best known for his attentions to beautiful women... and for his hunting prowess.” Neither Jennie nor Clara’s mother reportedly approved of the match, but Clara and Jennie’s father, Leonard, “recognized something of himself in the stylish, swaggering buccaneer with the silver tongue and ambitious plans.” (Kehoe, *Fortune’s Daughters*, pp.94-97)



It is easy to see why the young Churchill was a bit taken with his uncle. “Moreton was bright; he spoke and wrote with charm and wit, and he had great vision.” (Kehoe, p. 158) Moreton had evidently taken some interest in Winston. And “...on the strength of a slender work on bimetallism,” Moreton “was regarded as the literary member of the family.” (R, Churchill, *Vol. I*, pp.365-66) But Moreton “was too arrogant to recognize his limitations – which Churchill would have to discover by trial and consequence.

In late December 1897, Churchill was preparing to publish his first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, but was still in India with the 4th Hussars. Recognizing that it would take too much time to have the proofs sent to him in India from London, he wrote to his mother on 31 December “I want you therefore to ask Moreton Frewen if he will undertake the work of revising and correcting them for me.”

Longmans, Green, and Co. published *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* on 14 March 1898. A week later, Moreton’s “corrected” proofs arrived at Peshawar. The next day Churchill wrote in consternation to his mother “I add this letter to tell you the ‘revised proofs’ reached me yesterday and that I spent a very miserable afternoon in reading the gross & fearful blunders which I suppose have got into the finished copies. In the hope of stopping publication I have wired to Longmans, but I fear I am already too late. Still I may catch the Indian [colonial] edition, in which the absurdities would be most laughed at...” Churchill went on, in this letter and another of 25 March, to enumerate and lament the many “misprints, blunders & mistakes”.

The bloom was clearly off Uncle Moreton’s rose. Though Churchill said “I blame no one – but myself” he was blunt about his uncle. “...as far as Moreton is concerned, I now understand why his life has been a failure in the city and elsewhere.” Given his acute vexation, Churchill was restrained in a 2 April 1898 letter to Moreton, telling him “I see that you have taken a great deal of trouble in the matter and have modified a good many of my statements... I am very grateful to you for your kindness in all this matter...”

Clearly, however, Churchill remained fretful over the errors. While still in India, Churchill saw to production of errata slips, which were prepared in India on or about 7 April 1898. Slightly different errata slips were also produced by the publisher in London. More than a month later he still simmered, writing to his mother on 19 May 1898 “The book as it stands is an eyesore and I scream with disappointment and shame when I contemplate the hideous blunders that deface it.”

In his 31 August 1896 letter, Churchill had expressed his early views on composition to Moreton Frewen with deference and caveats – “It has appeared to me – so far as I have gone... This is of course only my opinion... not so much founded on experience as adopted from the necessity of having some views...” But now, less than two years later, Churchill had been tested, both in battle and in print, and application of his notions on composition had steadily grown into his first published book. Not surprisingly, Uncle Moreton was not sought again for editorial input.

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\$25,000 USD

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The Story of the Malakand Field Force

An author’s presentation copy of the first printing of the Colonial Library issue inscribed to one of Churchill’s fellow 4th Hussars, an officer who had been involved with Churchill in a regimental scandal two years prior

Longmans, Green, & Co., London, 1898

This is a finely bound and inscribed author’s presentation copy of the first edition, first printing of the “Colonial” issue of Churchill’s first book. *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* was written while Churchill was still an itinerant cavalry officer and war correspondent serving in British colonial India. Inscribed copies of Churchill’s first book are rare. Rarer still are contemporary inscribed copies of one of the scarce colonial issues. This is the only copy we have encountered inscribed to a comrade and fellow 4th Hussars officer in India, ostensibly proximate to publication and while Churchill was still in the country.

The inscription

Churchill inked his inscription in black in five lines on the recto of the blank page preceding the half-title. The inscription reads: “To Regimental Sergeant-Major | W. Brown. | 4th (QO) Hussars | With the Author’s | Compliments.”

The “Q O” is short for “Queen’s Own”. This is one of precious few Churchill inscriptions of which we are aware referencing Churchill’s first regiment. The 4th Queen’s Own Hussars was at Aldershot in 1895 when Lieutenant Winston Churchill joined it from Sandhurst as the junior subaltern. The 4th Hussars would experience much of its most conspicuous glory during Churchill’s long life and then would cease to be in the twilight of Churchill’s life, just a few years after the end of Churchill’s second premiership. A storied regiment long before Churchill’s association, the 4th Hussars was with Wellington throughout the Peninsular campaign and was one of the five regiments in the infamous charge of the Light Brigade. The 4th Hussars was awarded twenty-two Battle Honours during the First World War and, during the Second World War – while Churchill was prime minister – served both in Greece and at the battle of El Alamein before being amalgamated with the 8th King’s Royal Irish Hussars in 1958. In September 1957, nearly 60 years after this copy of his first book was inscribed, an aging Churchill would write a poignant Foreword for the published history of his soon-to-be-defunct regiment (David Scott Daniell’s *4th Hussar, The Story of the 4th Queen’s Own Hussars, 1685-1958*).

Of course when *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* was published, Churchill was just 23 years old and the long arc of his life still lay ahead. It is understandable that this copy would have been inscribed with the less pretentious “With the Author’s Compliments” rather than “Winston S. Churchill” given that the recipient held a senior non-commissioned rank in Churchill’s regiment and almost certainly Regimental Sergeant-Major Brown’s age and service exceeded that of the young junior officer presenting the book written about his own comparatively slight experience.

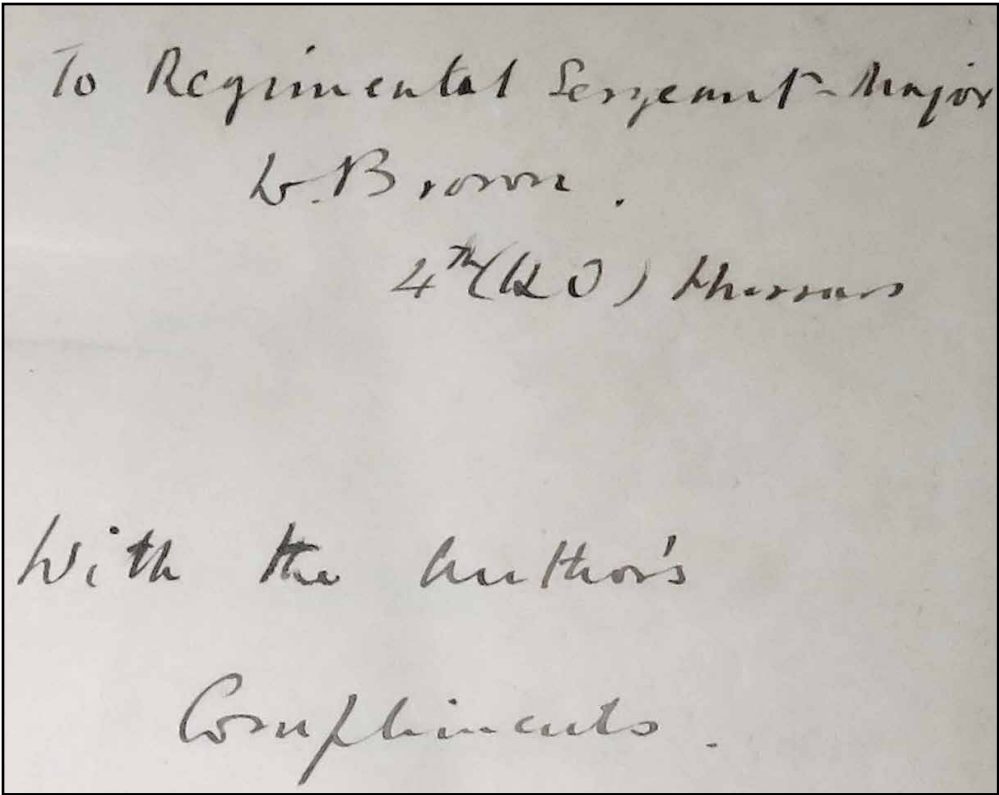
The recipient

The identity of “Regimental Sergeant-Major W. Brown” and the impetus behind this author’s presentation copy requires some explanation, ultimately raising more questions than we can answer. In brief, Brown was a pivotal character in a sordid and opaque “Gross Cavalry Scandal” that involved Winston Churchill and other young officers of the 4th Hussars in 1895-6.

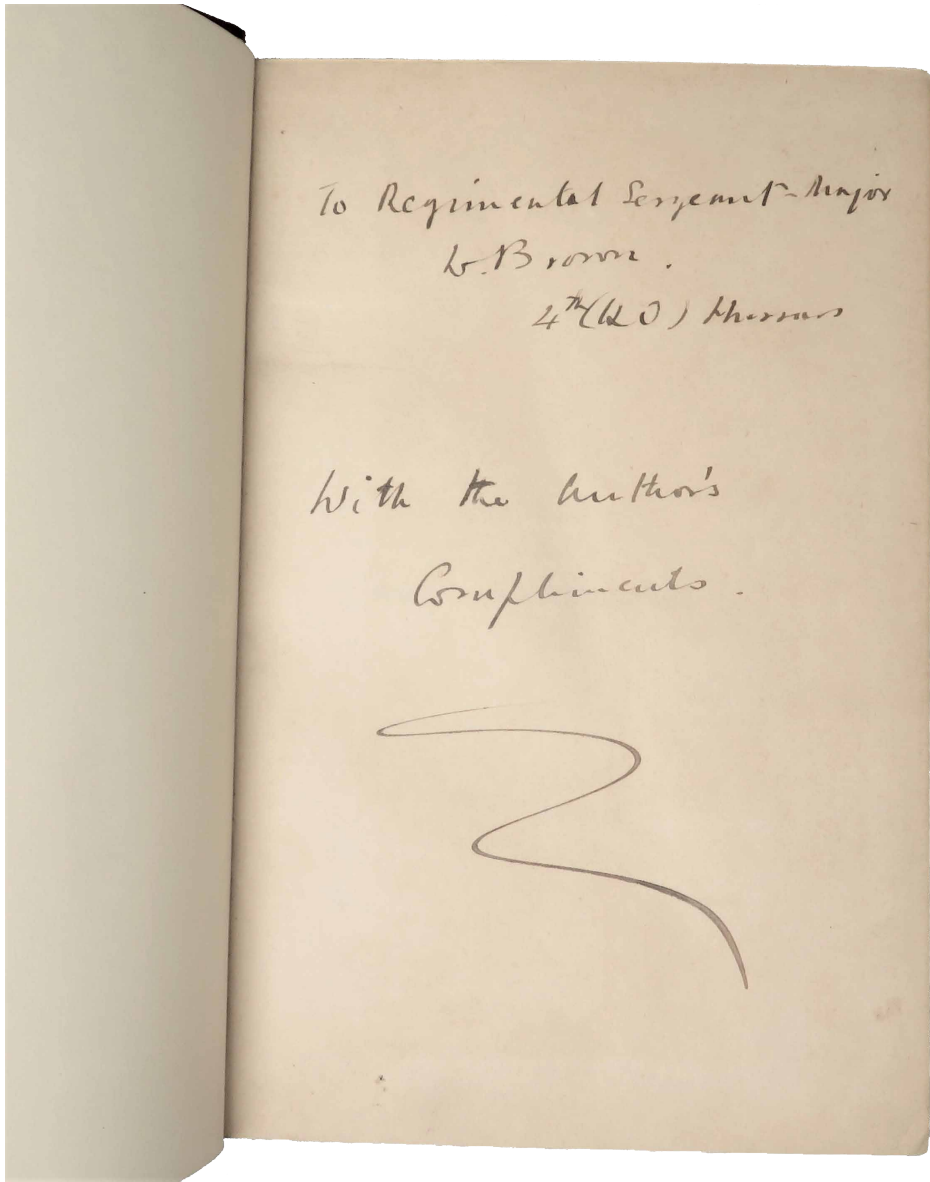
A young fellow officer of Churchill who had been Churchill’s contemporary at Sandhurst, Alan George Cameron Bruce (1874-1929) sought to join the 4th Hussars in the spring of 1895. It appears that when Bruce’s intention to join the 4th Hussars became known, a group of the regiment’s subalterns, including Churchill, tried to keep him out. This cabal of young officers invited Bruce to a dinner (at the Nimrod Club in London of which Churchill was a member) at which Bruce was informed he was unwelcome. Bruce joined anyway in April 1895 – and was allegedly subjected to a “general boycott to which he was exposed from the first day he entered the regiment.” His first year included several reprimands for abusive language and swearing. Finally, he was accused of “improperly associating with non-commissioned officers” while visiting the sergeant’s mess on Boxing Day and subsequently pressed by the

regiment’s colonel to resign. Bruce left both the 4th Hussars and the Army. The matter became public in 1896, detailed in *Truth*, “a paper which specialized in exposing minor Service scandals, particularly where personalities could be involved.”

The “Regimental Sergeant-Major W. Brown” to whom this volume is inscribed was integral to the scandal and to Churchill’s apparently preferred outcome being achieved – namely Bruce’s ouster.







In the matter of Bruce’s alleged indiscretion, two non-commissioned officers made formal statements that were used when Bruce was brought up on charges. One was a “Squadron-Sergeant-Major Doggett”. The other was “Regimental-Sergeant-Major Brown” who had reportedly invited Bruce to commit the indiscretion of drinking in the non-commissioned officers’ mess – the critical impropriety for which Bruce was pressed to resign. It was later reported that “while the subaltern [Bruce] went out of the Army, the Sergeant-Major on whose evidence he had been dismissed received a gratifying mark of the confidence of his superiors in being allowed to extend his service.”

In the end, both Bruce’s case and that of another young 4th Hussars officer who had been “rough handled” by the young officers in the Regiment were debated in the House of Commons on 19 June 1896. The combination of official inquiry and press exposure sympathetic to Bruce could have been crippling to Churchill’s reputation and career. But in the end the very hostility Churchill apparently engendered settled the matter in Churchill’s favor.

It seems apparent that Bruce held Churchill significantly responsible for his disgrace - so much so that Bruce’s father acted intemperately against Churchill. Bruce’s case was “gravely, even fatally, weakened by a libel his father, Mr. A. C. Bruce-Pryce... had perpetrated on Churchill in February 1896 after his son had resigned... Bruce-

Pryce alleged that his son knew that Churchill had participated at Sandhurst in ‘acts of gross immorality of the Oscar Wilde type.’” Being accused of homosexuality in the Victorian British Army was grave, serious business. This ill-advised overreach by Bruce’s father turned Churchill, rather than Bruce, into the victim. “Churchill issued a writ within four days of Bruce-Pryce’s letter, claimed damages of £20,000 and received within a month a complete withdrawal and apology and £500 damages.”

Writing nearly three quarters of a century later, Churchill’s son and initial biographer admitted that the story does not read “very prettily” even though “careful study of all the known facts” does not support a conclusion that Churchill’s conduct was “dishonourable” – merely that “Churchill’s conduct may have been injudicious”.

Less than two years after this incident subsided, Regimental Sergeant-Major W. Brown received this author’s presentation copy from Churchill. To have gifted this presentation copy, Churchill must have regarded the Regimental Sergeant Major with some sustained favor or gratitude. Whether or not this regard had anything to do with Brown’s testimony against Bruce, whether this testimony was enabled by intentional entrapment, and whether Churchill engineered or supported such entrapment, is – and likely will remain – unknown.

(References: R. Churchill, Vol. I, Youth: 1874-1900, pp.248-51; R. Churchill, *The Churchill Documents, Vol. I, Youth: 1874-1896*, pp.631-6; Douglas S. Russell, *Winston Churchill Soldier: The military life of a gentleman at war*; excerpts from contemporary articles in *Truth* authored by Henry Labouchere)

*The binding and provenance*

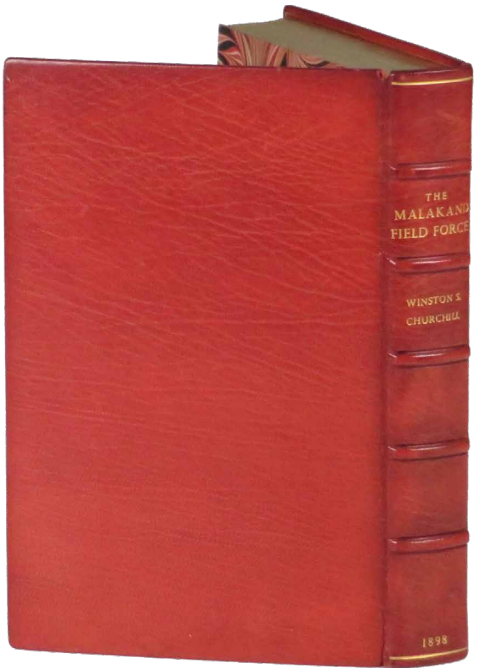
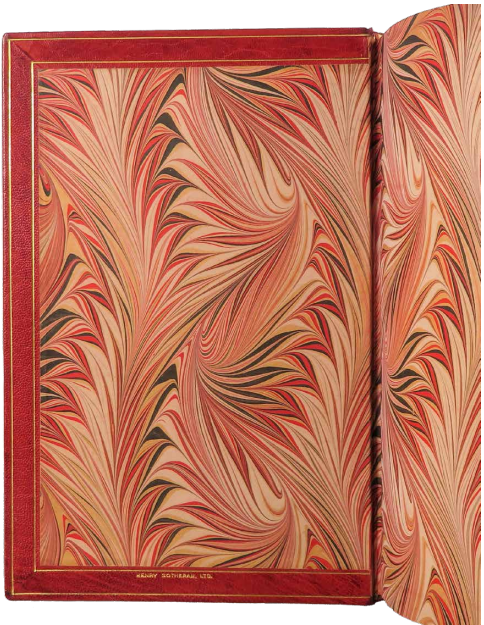
The elegant, orange-brown, beautifully grained, full Niger Morocco goatskin binding features hubbed spines with blind-rule framed bands, gilt rules at the spine head and tail, subtly radiused corners, and Churchill’s ancestral Marlborough arms in gilt on the front cover. The contents are bound with gilt top edges and double gilt-ruled turn-ins framing striking marbled endpapers. Even the gold and red silk head and foot bands are executed with manifest skill. This compellingly handsome example of the fine binder’s craft is a reminder to collectors that not all fine bindings are created equal.

Gilt print on the lower front pastedown turn-in attributes this binding to “HENRY SOTHERAN, LTD.” Founded in York in 1761 and established in London in 1815, Sotheran’s is one of the world’s oldest bookshops. This fine binding commissioned by Sotheran’s deliberately and closely emulated the fine bindings of the signed and limited first edition of *Marlborough: His Life and Times* (Churchill, 1933-1938, bound by Leighton-Straker). The binding of this volume and the publisher’s original *Marlborough* fine bindings look closely akin when shelved together.

This book came from the collection of British army veteran and noted Churchillian Major Alan Taylor-Smith (1928-2019) of Westerham, Kent, proximate to Churchill’s beloved country home, Chartwell. This volume was acquired by Sotheran on 3 December 1963 along with another signed item from Major Taylor-Smith’s collection – his signed set of the finely bound, limited issue of the first edition of *Marlborough: His Life and Times*. It was this very set of *Marlborough* that all the rest of the Churchill books in Major Taylor-Smith’s collection – including this inscribed presentation copy of *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* - were bound to match. Almost certainly, Sotheran commissioned the fine binding for this inscribed presentation copy of *Malakand* soon after their late 1963 acquisition of it. This inscribed *Malakand* and the signed *Marlborough* set formed the nucleus of the collection Sotheran curated and bound for Major Taylor-Smith.

*Condition*

Condition of the binding approaches fine, condition of the contents better than very good. The binding shows little observable wear. Minor blemishes appear inherent to the skin and mild toning of the leather lends aesthetic character to both shelf presentation and the binding overall. The contents are well-suited to the binding. All maps and sketches, including the folding maps at pages 1 and 146, are present, as is the original frontispiece and tissue guard. The tissue guard is complete, though torn. The 16-entry errata slip following p. xiv is definitively the one unique to this first printing Colonial issue (as opposed to the more common, 13-entry errata slip). The original illustrated cloth front cover, spine, and blank rear cover cloth are bound in following the text. The quality, laid paper on which this first printing of the Colonial issue was printed shows only mild, intermittent spotting. We find no previous ownership marks other than the author’s inscription.





The work

*The Story of the Malakand Field Force* recounts Churchill’s experiences while attached to Sir Bindon Blood’s punitive expedition on the Northwest Frontier of India in 1897. This book was written and published while Churchill was a young cavalry officer still serving in India. He had successfully applied his pen as a war correspondent - indeed the book is based on his dispatches to the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Pioneer Mail* – but this was his first book-length work.

Churchill was motivated by a combination of pique and ambition. He was vexed that his *Daily Telegraph* columns were to be published unsigned. On 25 October 1897 Churchill wrote to his mother: “...I had written them with the design... of bringing my personality before the electorate.” Two weeks later, his resolve to write a book firming, Churchill again wrote to his mother: “...It is a great undertaking but if carried out will yield substantial results in every way, financially, politically, and even, though do I care a damn, militarily.” Having invested his ambition in his first book, he clearly labored over it: “I have discovered a great power of application which I did not think I possessed. For two months I have worked not less than five hours a day.”

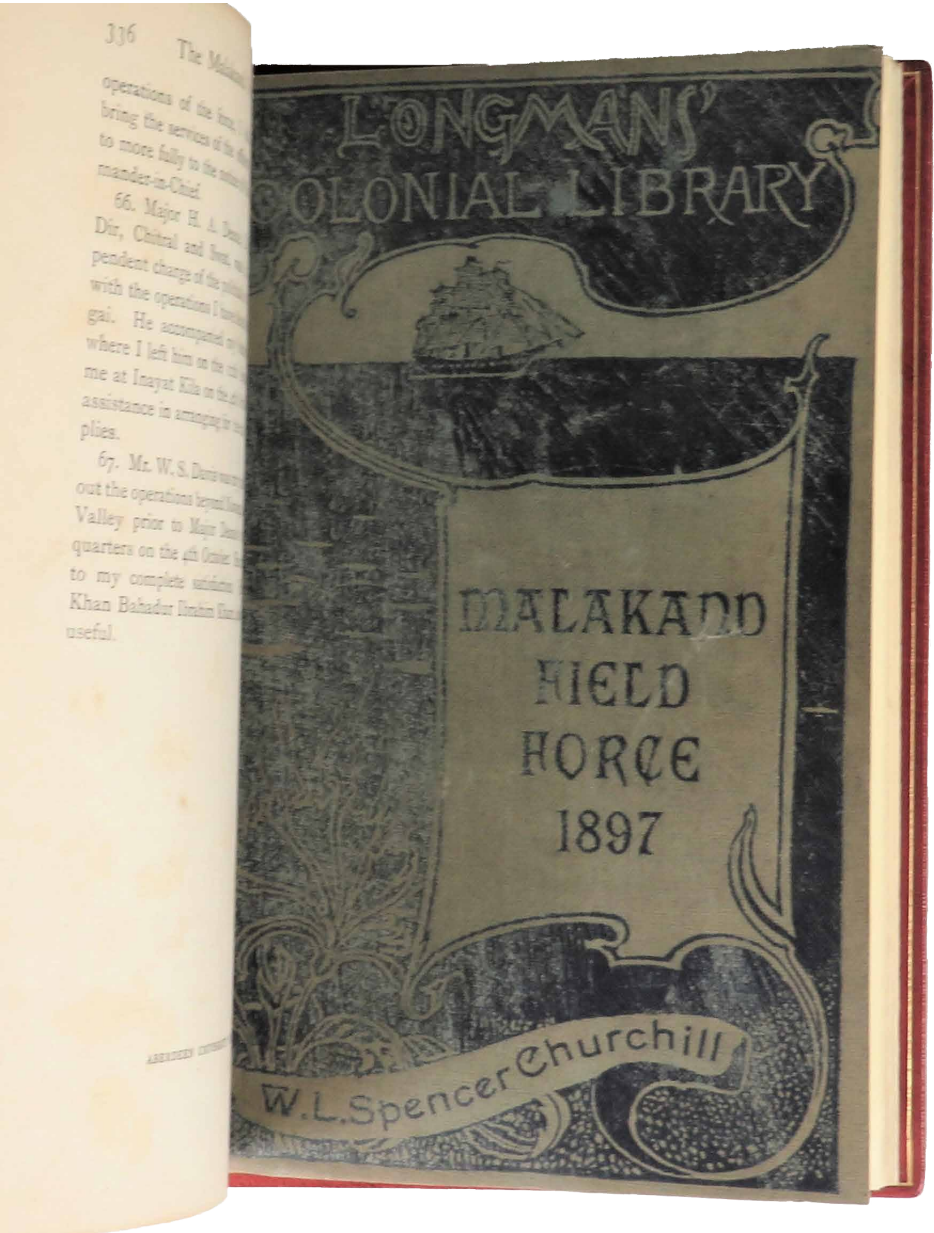
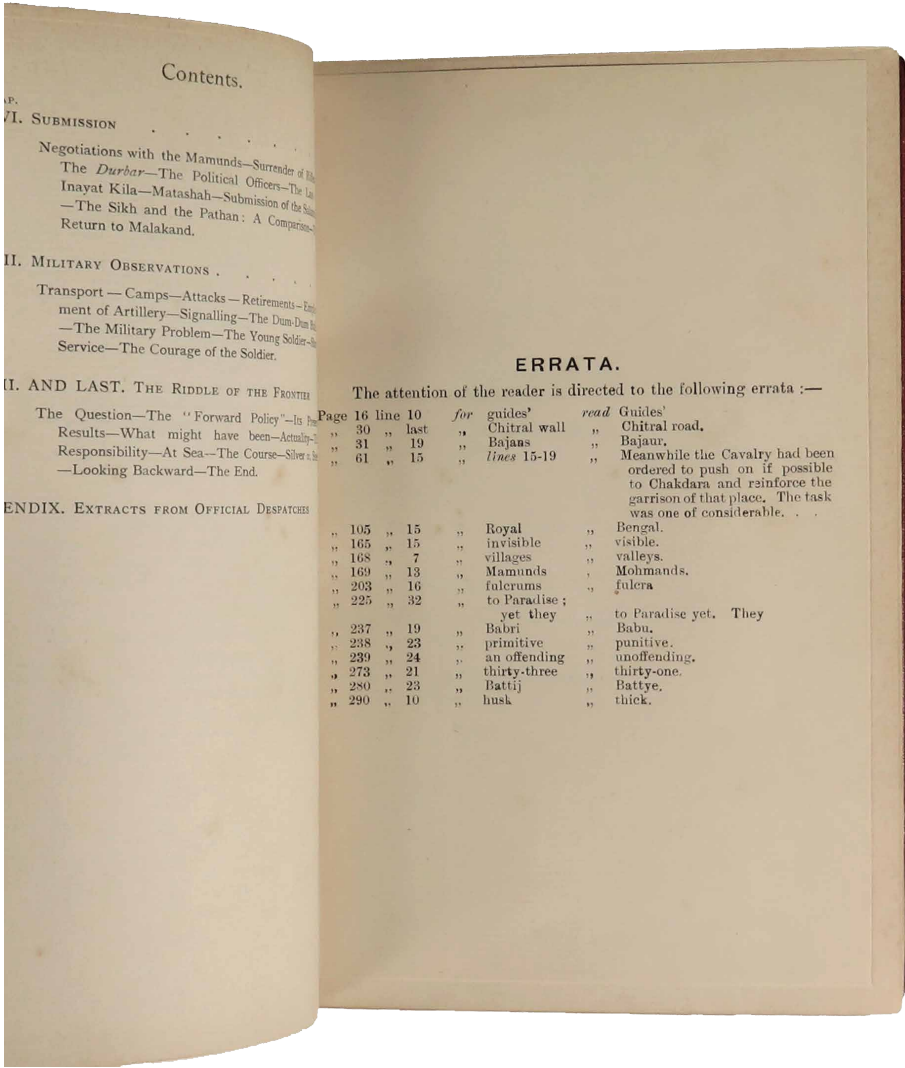
The finished manuscript was sent to his mother on the last day of 1897 and published on 14 March of 1898. Dozens of books followed this first over the next six decades, helping Churchill earn his livelihood, his place in history, and, more than half a century after this first book was published, a Nobel Prize in Literature.

This edition

Churchill’s first book was issued in two distinctively different “cased” (hardcover) forms. The Home Issue first edition, only printing is known to collectors in the familiar green cloth with contents printed on thick, white wove paper.

Hardcover Colonial editions were issued with strikingly illustrated front covers. There were no fewer than ten different editions, printings, and binding variations for the small number of Colonial issues ultimately produced from 1898 to 1901. The harsher climate and condition of the colonies meant low survival rates and often poor condition for those few examples that endured.

This inscribed author’s presentation copy is a scarce first edition, first printing of the Colonial Library issue, featuring the unusual and rarely seen Indian errata slip arranged personally by Churchill and unique to only some copies of this particular Colonial issue. First printing copies of the Colonial issue were produced simultaneously with the Home Issue.



Publication of the first edition of 1898 was arranged by Churchill’s uncle while the author was still in India, resulting in numerous spelling and detail errors. Churchill was incensed by the errors and acted with haste to address them. Per Cohen in his *Bibliography*: “Colonial Library copies are known with an unusual errata slip, which was prepared in India on or about 7 April 1898. It was, therefore, in all likelihood available in first edition copies in India before the domestic errata slips were available in London and certainly before the domestic errata slips were available in India.” (Cohen p.14). Churchill was still serving in India at the time.

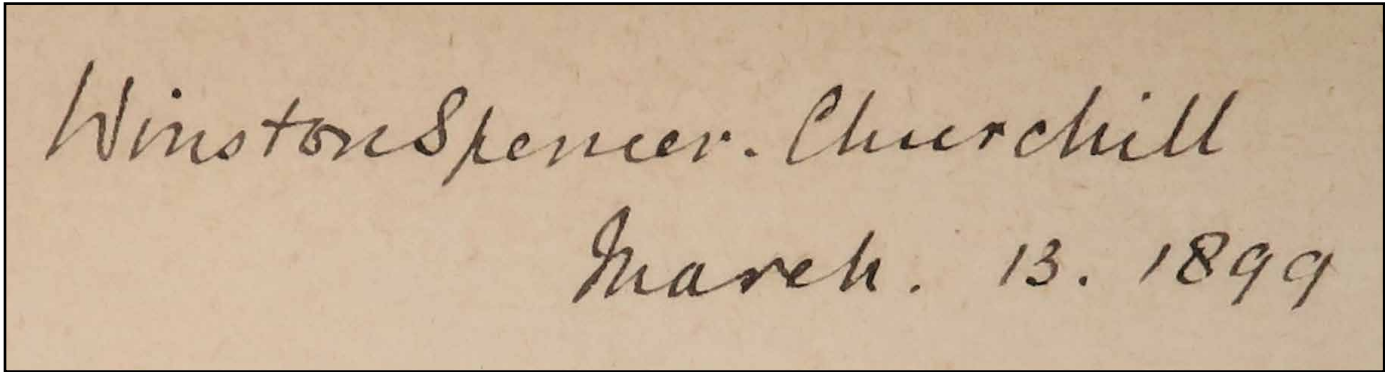
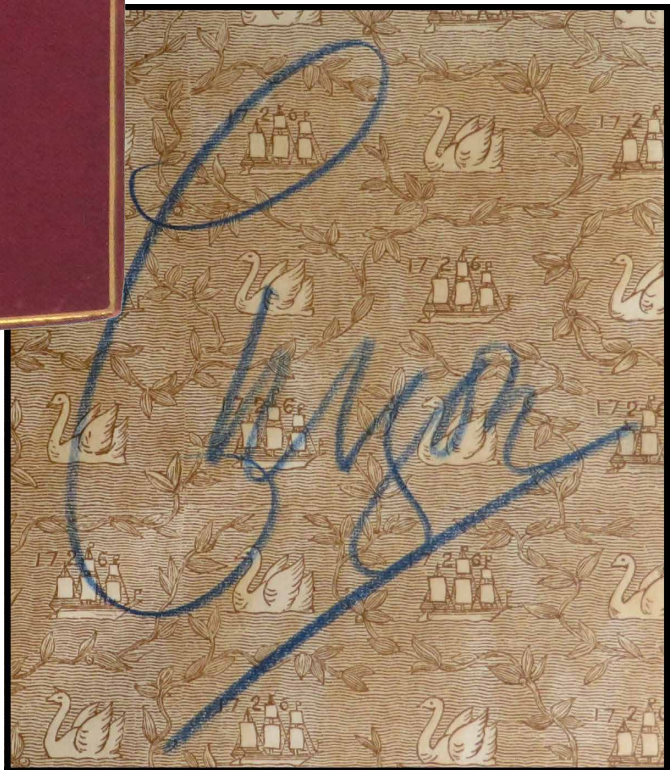
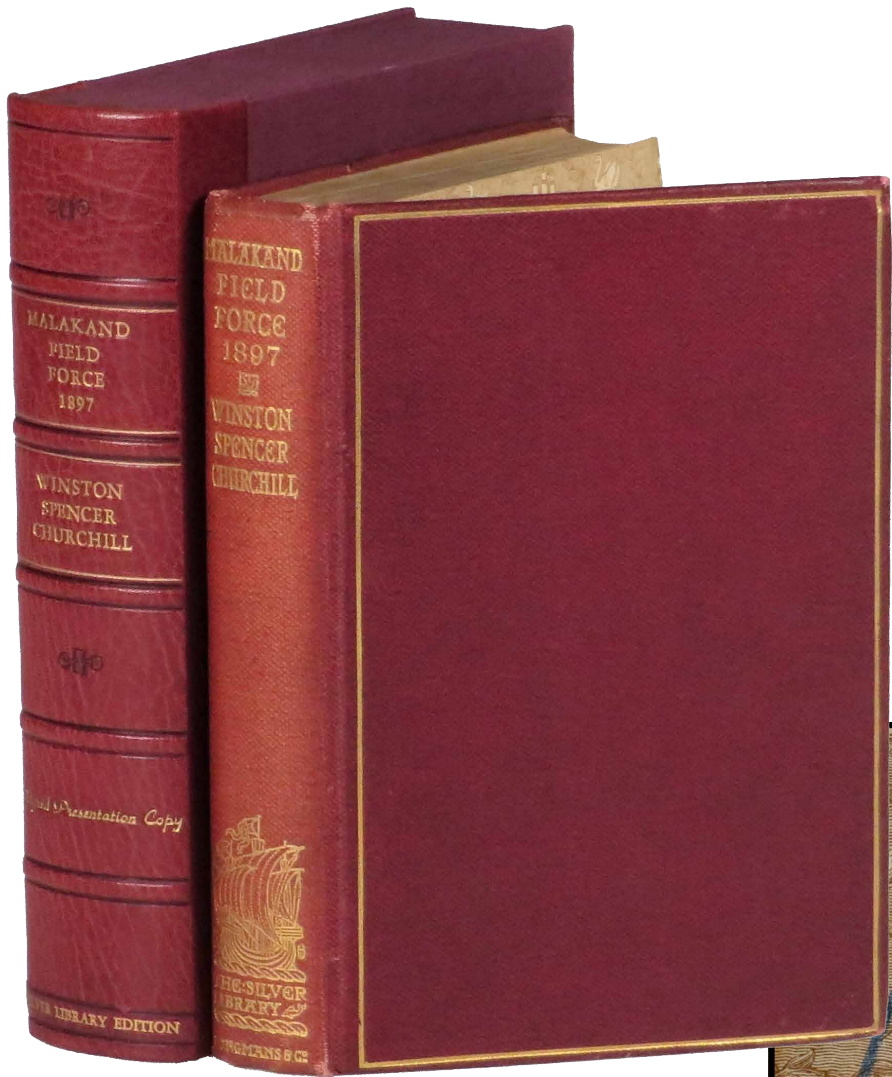
In a 22 March 1898 letter to his mother, Churchill lamented the “gross & fearful blunders” of the first edition and stated: “I may catch the Indian edition, in which the absurdities would be most laughed at.” Evidence indicates that Churchill himself personally arranged for the printing of the Indian slips, paid for them himself, and had them tipped into the Colonial copies before distribution. These unique errata contain four additional corrections not found on the domestic errata slip, as well as small differences in the other corrigenda. Given the provenance of the unique Indian errata slip, we can be confident that this copy originally sold in India, where the young author was serving at the time. This of course correlates with the author’s presentation inscription to an officer of the 4th Hussars, then serving in India.

Reference: Cohen A1.2.c, Woods/ICS A1(ab.1), Langworth p.15. [CBC #006357]

\$15,000 USD



3 The Story of the Malakand Field Force  
Lord Curzon's copy of Churchill's first published book, signed by Curzon and inscribed and dated by Churchill in India on 13 March 1899 during Curzon's first months as Viceroy of India  
*Longmans, Green, & Co., London, 1899*



This is a signed copy of Winston S. Churchill's first published book, rendered remarkably compelling by association, time, place, and the nature of the signature itself. This first printing of the second, Silver Library edition of *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* belonged to the last Victorian Viceroy of India, Lord George Nathaniel Curzon, bears Curzon's signature, and was signed and dated by Winston S. Churchill, in India, on 13 March 1899.

*The inscription and signature*

Curzon's characteristically bold and simple signature "Curzon" is in blue on the front free endpaper recto. Churchill signed and dated the upper half title in two lines in black "*Winston Spencer Churchill | March. 13. 1899*". The use of the full, formal "Spencer" rather than simply "S." is quite unusual, typically found only in Churchill's earliest signatures and scarce even among these. It seems plausible to speculate that the formality reflected the moment, the young cavalry subaltern being at the time the guest of the newly appointed Viceroy and evidently much impressed by his host.

*The moment*

Fortunately, we know much about the time and circumstances that prompted this signed presentation copy. In December 1898, Lord Curzon, not yet 40, left England to assume his duties as the newly-appointed Viceroy of India. That same December, 24-year-old Winston Churchill, newly returned to England from the battlefield at Omdurman in the Sudan, also left for India. Churchill's purpose - less exalted than that of Curzon - was to take part in the Inter-Regimental Polo Tournament.

Their two arcs would converge a few months later in Calcutta, when the newly-minted Viceroy of India hosted the itinerant war correspondent, cavalry officer, budding author, and aspiring politician. Churchill's Official Biography informs us that "On his way back from the Inter-Regimental Polo Tournament, Churchill stayed for a week with the Viceroy of Calcutta." This stay occurred in early March 1899. (R. Churchill, *Vol. I*, p.436)

Two years earlier, in a 25 February 1897 letter to his mother, Churchill had cited - with youthful vehemence and certainty - his detestation of Curzon, whom he called "blown with conceit - insolent from undeserved success - the typification of the superior Oxford prig." Worth noting, all but the "Oxford" epithet might have been applied to Churchill by others.

During his stay with Curzon and his wife in India, Churchill's opinion clearly changed and "All of his previous hostility evaporated under the impact of the Curzon charm". (R. Churchill, *Vol. I*, p.436) Now fondly impressed, Churchill wrote to his mother from Calcutta on 2 March 1899: "I have found him very delightful to talk to. His manners are wonderful. All the aggressiveness wh irritated me at home is gone... I fear he works too hard - nearly eleven hours every single day..." To his grandmother Churchill wrote on 26 March "I spent a pleasant week at Calcutta & had several long and delightful talks with Lord Curzon. I understand the success he has obtained. He is a remarkable man..."

Indications are that the favorable impression was mutual. It also appears that *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* had been well received. Lady Curzon wrote to Churchill's mother on 14 March 1899 "People in India have an immense opinion of Winston & his book." (R. Churchill, *Vol. I*, p.436)



The association

Churchill was still two wars and a year and a half away from his first election to Parliament and the beginning of the long, eventful arc of his political career. At 24, Churchill was not much younger than Curzon had been when he served his first political apprenticeship “in the erratic shadow of Lord Randolph Churchill”, Winston’s father. (ODNB) Churchill took his first seat in Parliament on 14 February 1901. That May, Curzon wrote to Churchill from the Viceregal Lodge in Simla: “Just a line to congratulate you upon the successful inauguration of your Parliamentary career.” After sardonic comments about maiden speeches, including his own, Curzon paid the compliment “I have... been very pleased to see the manner in which you have not merely won but retained the ear of the House.”

During the remaining quarter century of Curzon’s life, they would swiftly become peers in politics, both occupying positions of influence and authority. Few statesmen – except perhaps Churchill – “experienced such vicissitudes of fortune”.

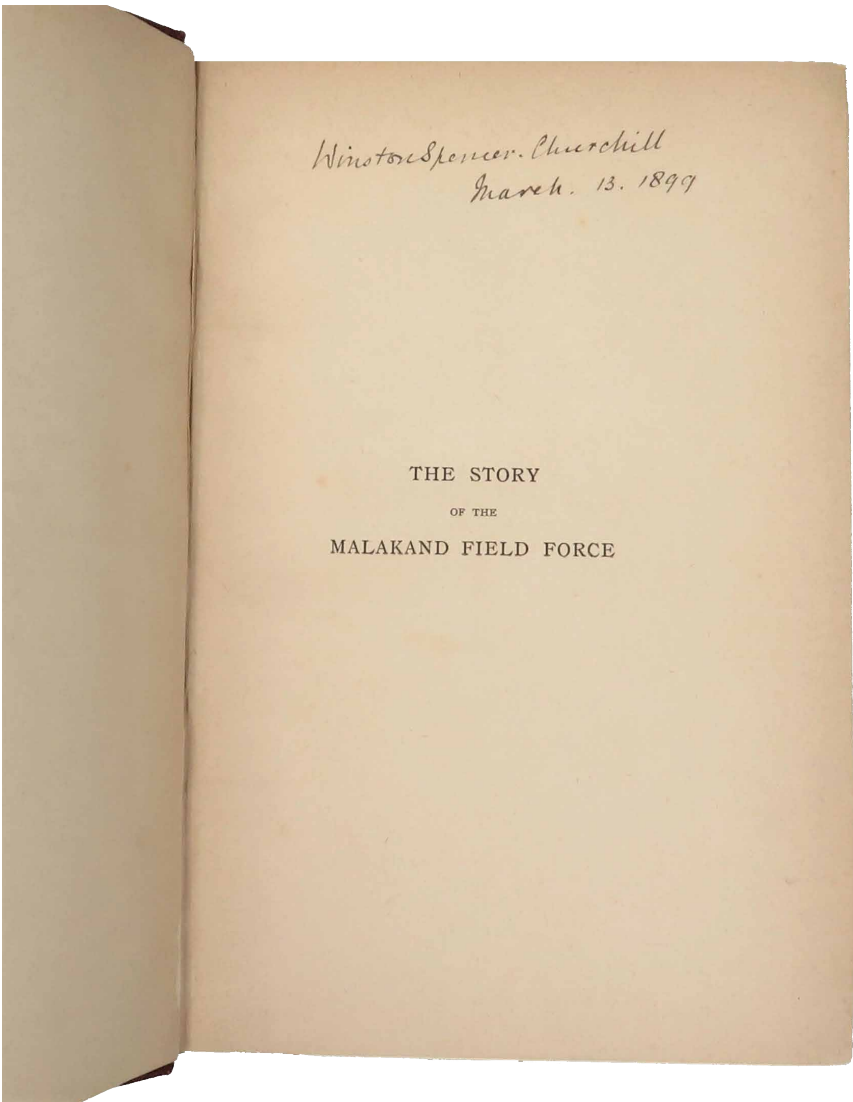
Both men commanded some progressive foresight in their policy prescriptions, despite their fundamentally Victorian molding – Curzon as “the last and in many ways the greatest of Victorian viceroys” and Churchill in his first career as itinerant Victorian cavalry officer and war correspondent. (ODNB) Both quarreled and chafed the leaders they served. Both suffered prolonged wilderness years – Curzon in the decade following his viceroyship, Churchill for a few years following the Dardanelles disaster and then nearly a decade during the 1930s.

Apart from their differences in policy, which were several and significant, there was a fundamental difference in time and opportunity. Churchill was 65 when the Second World War brutally vindicated him and brought the premiership that cemented his place in history. Curzon was 66 when, less than two years after being passed over for prime minister and four months after he was replaced as foreign secretary, he died.

Curzon’s stature was sufficient to merit a lengthy, thoughtful profile in Churchill’s 1937 book *Great Contemporaries*. (pp. 273-88) Churchill’s perspective on Curzon was both critical and complimentary. It is interesting to note that a thematic thread of Churchill’s critical observation is that Curzon repeatedly “lost the game” of political maneuver, demonstrating that “virtue is not its own reward.” (p.288) Arguably, much of Churchill’s own history in politics was punctuated by principled stands against both his party and prevailing public sentiment. It is plausible that, if not for Hitler’s conspicuous overreach, Churchill, like Curzon, would have never achieved the premiership. Had it been so, Churchill’s epitaph for Curzon would have applied equally to himself:

*“The morning had been golden; the noon-tide was bronze; and the evening lead. But all were solid, and each was polished till it shone after its fashion.”*

Nearly four decades before Churchill published this epigraph, when Churchill inscribed Curzon’s book, both men’s history was still unwritten.

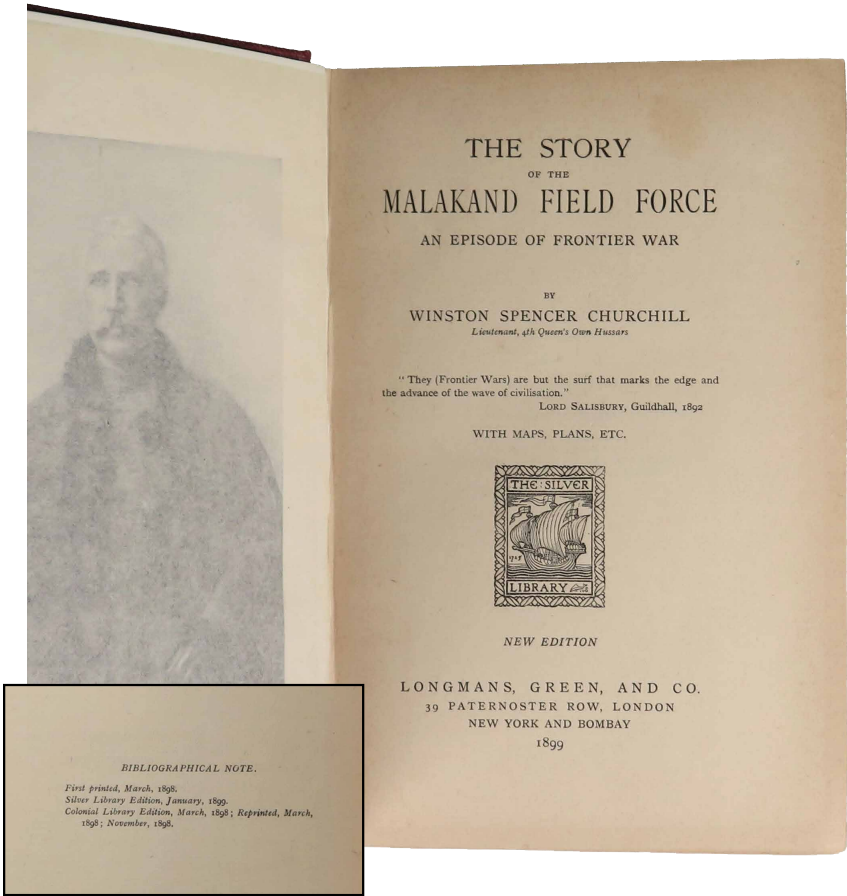


Edition and condition

It makes sense that Churchill would have preferred to inscribe a copy of the second, Silver Library edition, which had just been published on 1 January 1899, rather than the home issue of the first edition or an early Colonial Library issue. A year previous, proofing of the first edition was arranged by Churchill’s uncle while the author was still in India, resulting in numerous spelling and detail errors. Incensed and embarrassed, Churchill acted with haste to address the errors. Hence later states of the first edition and early Colonial Library issues feature errata slips. This second, Silver Library, edition was the first to incorporate Churchill’s corrections. Churchill knew Curzon to be not only the Viceroy, but also a keen intellect and accomplished scholar and author. Likely he would not have wanted to give the Viceroy a copy of a book written in India about India replete with errors and errata slip corrections.

This Silver Library edition was handsome, with a deep maroon cloth binding, gilt rule-bordered front cover, blind rule-bordered rear cover, illustrated spine, and distinctive swan and ship patterned endpapers. Unfortunately, the maroon boards proved highly susceptible to fading and wear, the paper easily browned and became brittle, and the binding often cracked. This particular example of the first printing of the first Silver Library edition - one of just 1,440 copies – is in better than very good condition and would be collector worthy even without the signatures of Churchill and Curzon. The binding is clean, tight, and square with excellent color on the covers and only mild, uniform toning to the spine, which retains bright gilt and superior shelf appearance. Mild wear is mostly confined to extremities, with a tiny dent to the upper edge of the rear cover, a small blemish to the upper left rear cover that appears to be an original binding flaw, and a few light, superficial scuffs to the rear cover. The contents are unusually bright for the edition, with the customary age-toning apparent only at the perimeter blank margins of the pages. We note no sign of the brittleness that sometimes manifests in the contents of this edition. Even the fore and bottom text block edges are atypically clean, with only mild dust soiling to the top edge. We find no spotting and no previous ownership marks other than those of Churchill and Curzon. The distinctive swan and ship endpapers are intact, as are the frontispiece, tissue guard, and maps.

The book is housed in a handsome quarter Morocco goatskin Solander case, hued complementary to the original binding. The spine features raised bands framed by blind rules, gilt-rule framed title and author compartments, a compartment printed “*Signed Presentation Copy*” and “SILVER LIBRARY EDITION” at the spine heel between blind rules. Blind rule transitions demarcate the borders between the leather and the maroon cloth-covered boards. The interior is felt-lined. Condition of the case is near fine, shelf presentation excellent, the cloth boards showing only trivial scuffs.



When *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* was written and published, Churchill was a young cavalry officer still serving in India. While he had successfully applied his pen as a war correspondent - indeed the book is based on his dispatches to the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Pioneer Mail* - this was his first book-length work. The young Churchill was motivated by a combination of pique and ambition. He was vexed that his *Daily Telegraph* columns were to be published unsigned. On 25 October 1897 Churchill wrote to his mother: “...I had written them with the design... of bringing my personality before the electorate.” Two weeks later, his resolve to write a book firming, Churchill again wrote to his mother: “...It is a great undertaking but if carried out will yield substantial results in every way, financially, politically, and even, though do I care a damn, militarily.” Having invested his ambition in this first book, he clearly labored over it: “I have discovered a great power of application which I did not think I possessed. For two months I have worked not less than five hours a day.” The finished manuscript was sent to his mother on the last day of 1897 and published on 14 March of 1898. Dozens of books would follow this first over the next six decades, helping Churchill earn his livelihood, his place in history, and a Nobel Prize in Literature.



Lord Curzon

Statesman, traveler, viceroy of India and foreign secretary to three prime ministers, George Nathaniel Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston (1859-1925) was born to a family that traced its land and Norman lineage to the twelfth century.

The highly competitive Curzon was educated at Eton and Oxford where two aspects of his character fledged. The first was his competitiveness. At both Eton and Oxford, Curzon was “awarded a record number of distinctions for outstanding work.” Given his competitiveness, Curzon’s other defining characteristic might not surprise: “few people ever felt neutral about him” and his “strange talent for both attraction and repulsion stayed with him all his life.”

Curzon was first elected to Parliament in June 1886, where his “brilliant and eloquent but also presumptuous” oratory earned him comparison to Lord Randolph Churchill. But it was not Parliament that would define the young Curzon. In August 1887 he began a series of travels that would eventually make him “the most travelled man who ever sat in a British cabinet.” Curzon’s journeys spanned large parts of Asia and yielded a number of highly regarded books as well as high regard for the Asiatic expertise of the author. This supported Curzon’s appointment as under-secretary for India in November 1891. At 32, Curzon was only a year older than Churchill when the latter was appointed under-secretary for the Colonies in 1905.

Curzon’s foremost ambition, however, was not the Cabinet, but to be viceroy of India. This he achieved just before his fortieth birthday. On 6 January 1899 Curzon was proclaimed viceroy in Calcutta’s Government House. Less than two month later, in early March 1899, young Winston was the guest of the new Viceroy and inscribed and dated Curzon’s copy of Winston’s first book.

Curzon’s first five years in India were largely successful, including commitment to justice that won him Indian support and an ambitious program of reforms that “encompassed every aspect of Indian life from the police and the railways to education and conservation.” Friends and allies urged him to return to Britain and prepare to lead his Conservative Party after Prime Minister Balfour’s retirement. But just as Curzon eschewed Cabinet ambitions in favor of the viceroyship, now he sought to stay, and persuaded the prime minister to grant him a second, shorter term. It was a mistake. Curzon quarreled with both the Secretary of State for India and India’s military commander in chief, Lord Kitchener, over civilian vs. military control of the army, resulting in Curzon’s resignation in August 1905.

Politically sidelined, Curzon contested and won the chancellorship of Oxford University, where his zeal for reform continued unabated. Curzon entered the House of Lords in 1908. Churchill, as a young lion of the Liberal Party, was championing progressive causes and advocating to curtail the power of the House of Lords, which was prominent among the issues upon which he and the Liberals campaigned. Curzon initially defended hereditary principle. But when the Liberals prevailed in the General Election of December 1910 and used their mandate to press the issue, he relented, advocating for reduction in hereditary membership and to limit veto power. In the Parliament Act vote of August 1911, Curzon not only voted for passage, but “persuaded enough Unionists to support the bill or abstain for the government to carry the day.” (ODNB) Not ironically, in the coronation honours that year Curzon was finally made an Earl. The Conservative Party split wedged by Curzon prompted Arthur Balfour “to resign rather than curb his Right Wing.” (R. Churchill, Vol. I, p.361) Balfour would even the score with Curzon a dozen years later.

In May 1915 Curzon was invited to join Prime Minister Asquith’s wartime coalition cabinet – the same month that Churchill was forced to resign as First Lord of the Admiralty, scapegoated for the Dardanelles disaster. Thereafter, Curzon had been in “close collaboration” with Churchill “to prevent the evacuation of the Dardanelles.” While Churchill was serving at the Front, Curzon even wrote Churchill a twenty-page letter (regrettably lost to history) “describing in vivid style the whole of the struggle within the Cabinet on that grievous issue” and “deploring” Churchill’s absence. (*Great Contemporaries*, p.281)



Curzon eventually had a roundabout hand in returning Churchill to power. He and his fellow Unionist cabinet ministers helped force Asquith’s resignation in favor of the premiership of David Lloyd George, who would in turn restore Winston Churchill to the wartime cabinet. Curzon would also serve as a member of Lloyd George’s war cabinet, a key figure who ended up “the only man who remained in the cabinet throughout Lloyd George’s premiership.”

Post-war, the relationship broke down. Curzon became Foreign Secretary. He came to support an independent, constitutional monarchy in Egypt, which was fiercely opposed by both Lloyd George and Churchill. Curzon also clashed with his prime minister over Turkey, where Lloyd George wanted to allow territorial concessions to Greece and occupation by Greek troops. Lloyd George’s scheme prevailed – and precipitated nationalist rebellion in Turkey, war between Greece and Turkey, and then revolution in Greece. Fed up, Curzon resigned in October 1922, precipitating the end of Lloyd George’s government, and succession of a Conservative government with Bonar Law as prime minister and Curzon reprising his Foreign Secretary role.

Churchill later called Curzon’s role in Lloyd George’s ouster his “only one public dispute” with Curzon. (*Great Contemporaries*, p.283) Churchill had cause for grievance; Churchill lost his own seat in the 1922 General Election, which saw the electoral destruction of his Liberal Party. The next two years were the only years in more than 60 that Churchill spent without a seat in Parliament.

Curzon’s final moment in the sun was the conference of Lausanne – arguably “Curzon’s finest moment as foreign secretary. Through diplomatic skill and force of personality, he dominated the eleven weeks of the proceedings, dealing with his allies, France and Italy, as shrewdly as he managed the Turks. His achievements were embodied in the treaty of Lausanne of 1923, which secured the freedom of the straits, achieved a relatively high level of regional stability, and, by restoring Turkish sovereignty to the Turkish heartland, enabled the new country to make the transition from enfeebled empire to nation state.” (ODNB)

When Bonar Law was forced to resign half a year into his premiership, Curzon expected to become prime minister, but was thwarted by Balfour, who advised King George V “that it was essential for the prime minister to be in the House of Commons, but in private admitted that he was prejudiced against Curzon.” (ODNB) Curzon, of course, sat in the House of Lords. To Curzon’s bitter surprise, the King invited Stanley Baldwin to form a government. Instead of assuming the premiership, Curzon remained Foreign Secretary until forced from the role in November 1924. Curzon died serving as lord president of the council and leader of the House of Lords in March 1925.

Reference: Cohen A1.3.a, Woods/ICS A1(ba.1), Langworth p.20. [CBC #006802]

\$20,000 USD





# 4 Ian Hamilton's March

The U.S. first edition, only printing, signed by Churchill during his first lecture tour of the U.S. and Canada  
*Longmans, Green, and Co., New York, 1900*

This is a signed U.S. first edition, only printing of Winston Churchill's fifth book – his final book chronicling his adventures as an itinerant soldier and war correspondent. The young Churchill almost certainly signed this copy in late 1900 or early 1901 during his first North American Lecture tour before he returned to England to take his first seat in Parliament.

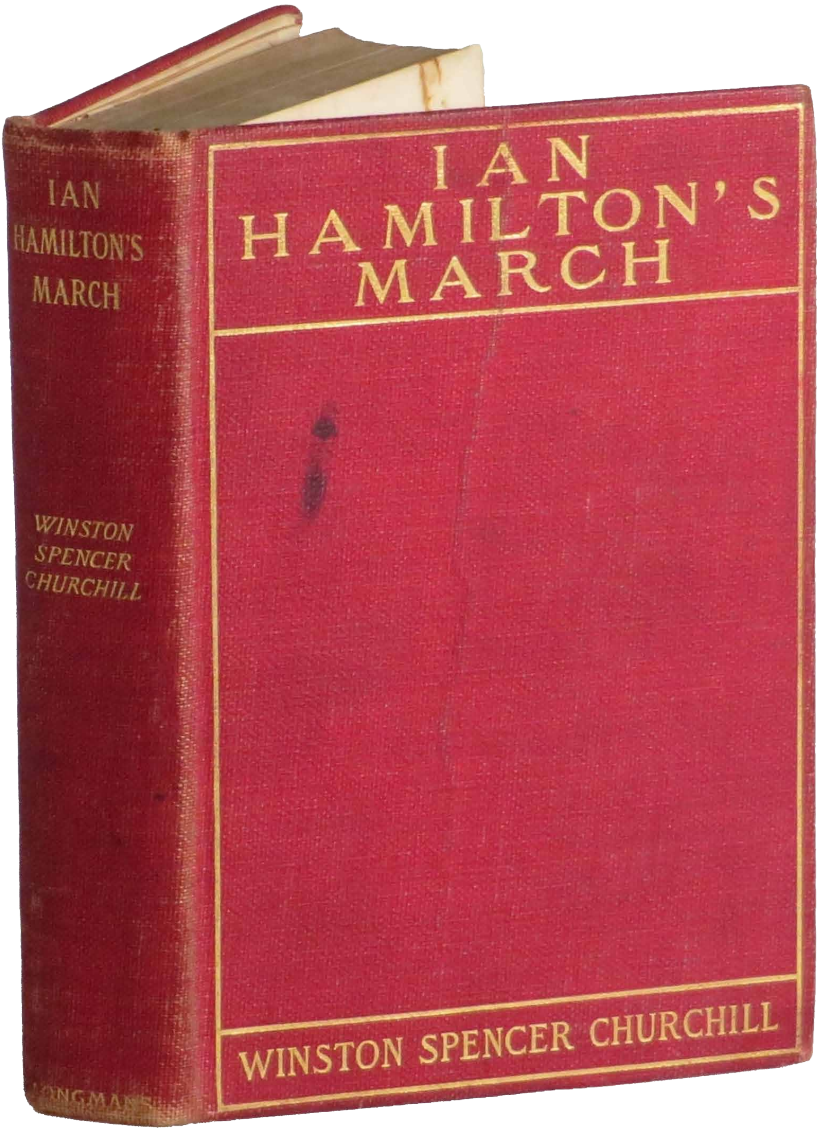
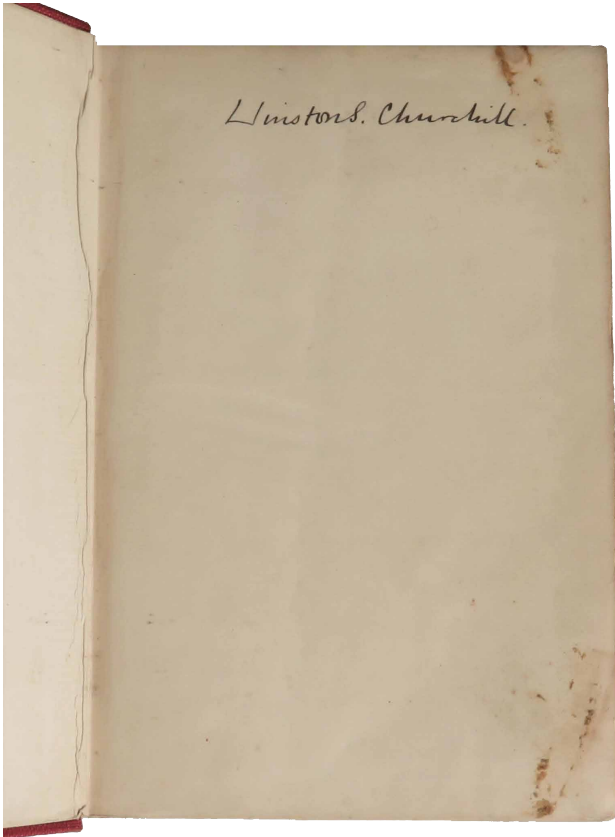
## The Time

In October 1899, the second Boer War erupted in South Africa between the descendants of Dutch settlers and the British. As an adventure-seeking young cavalry officer and war correspondent, Churchill swiftly found himself in South Africa with the 21st Lancers and an assignment as press correspondent to the *Morning Post*. Not long thereafter, on 15 November 1899, Churchill was captured during a Boer ambush of an armored train. His daring escape less than a month later made him a celebrity and helped launch his political career.

Churchill returned from South Africa in July 1900 and spent the summer campaigning hard in Oldham. Churchill had lost the Oldham by-election – his first attempt at Parliament – in July 1899. Since then, as Arthur Balfour (who became Prime Minister in 1902) put it in a 30 August 1900 letter, the young Churchill had had “fresh opportunities - admirably taken advantage of – for shewing the public of what stuff you are made.” Indeed; Churchill won his first seat in Parliament on 1 October 1900 in the so-called “khaki election”. His first North American lecture tour swiftly followed. Churchill's lecture tour of the United States and Canada was intended to improve his finances at a time when MPs received no salary. Churchill arrived in New York on board the *Lucania* on December 8, 1900.

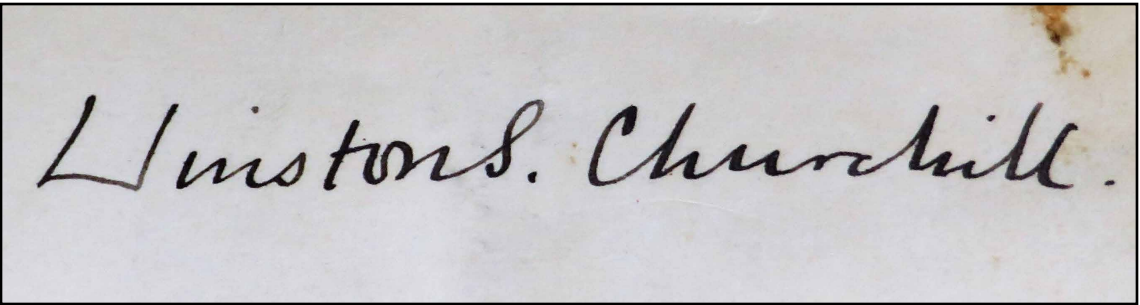
Churchill's second and final Boer War book, published in the U.S. on 26 November 1900, would have been both available at the time and perfectly suited to his lecture. We have handled a number of Churchill's books signed or inscribed by him during his time in Canada and the United States spanning 8 December 1900 to 2 February 1901. These include the first edition, third (1900) impression of *The River War*, the first (and only) printing of *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* (1898), and a different copy of the U.S. first edition of *Ian Hamilton's March*. Churchill likely brought with him copies of *The River War* and *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*; both were published only in Britain. The U.S. first edition of *Ian Hamilton's March* had the advantage of being available for sale in the United States concurrent with Churchill's tour. Nonetheless, this is only the second signed copy of the U.S. first edition of *Ian Hamilton's March* we have encountered, the other being signed by Churchill in Chicago on 10 January 1901.

As Churchill's most recently published Boer War book, *Ian Hamilton's March* was not only the most readily available, but also highly appropriate to this tour. One of the challenges Churchill faced in America was “strong pro Boer feeling” among “almost half” of some of his audiences. (21 December 1900 letter from Churchill to his mother) The situation offered perfect practice for the political career he was about to begin and, not surprisingly, Churchill found ways to deal with the challenge. When he displayed an image of “a typical Boer soldier” a gallery spectator hurraed the Boers and “the cry was taken up by a large part of the audience,” followed by hisses from pro-British listeners. Churchill deftly responded: “Don't hiss. There is one of the heroes of history. The man in the gallery is right. No true-hearted Englishman will grudge a brave foe cheers.” This “put the audience in good humour” and gave Churchill “the considerate attention of his audience.” (*The Chicago Tribune*, 11 January 1901)



Churchill left the United States for England on 2 February aboard the SS Etruria. In a lecture tour that had proven both challenging and exhausting, Churchill had met President McKinley, dined with recently elected Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt, and been introduced to Mark Twain. He had taken his first full measure of the tenor and spirit of the nation that would prove his - and Britain's - vital partner in the two world wars to come.

While Churchill was abroad, Queen Victoria died, and the end of her 64-year reign also closed Churchill's Victorian career as a cavalry officer and war correspondent adventurer. Churchill took his first seat in Parliament on 14 February 1901. His political career would last nearly two thirds of a century, see him occupy a cabinet office during each of the first six decades of the twentieth century, carry him twice to the premiership and, further still, into the annals of history as one of the 20th century's preeminent statesman. All of this lay still before him when he inked his name in this book.







The Edition

*Ian Hamilton's March* is Churchill's fifth published book and the second of Churchill's two books based on his dispatches sent from the front in South Africa. Churchill's first Boer War book, *London to Ladysmith via Pretoria*, contained 27 letters and telegrams to the *Morning Post* written between 26 October 1899 and 10 March 1900 and was published in England in mid-May. *Ian Hamilton's March* completes Churchill's coverage of the Boer War, comprising 17 letters to the *Morning Post*, spanning 31 March through 14 June 1900.

While *London to Ladysmith via Pretoria* had swiftly published Churchill's dispatches in the wake of his capture and escape, for *Ian Hamilton's March* "the texts of the originally published letters were more extensively revised and four letters were included which had never appeared in periodical form" (Cohen, A8.1.a, Vol. I, p.105). Churchill effected these revisions while en route home to England on board the passenger and cargo steamer *Dunottar Castle*, which was requisitioned as a troop ship. The narrative in *Ian Hamilton's March* includes the liberation of the Pretoria prison camp where Churchill had been held and from which he had famously escaped.

The title takes its name from the campaign of General Sir Ian Standish Monteith Hamilton (1853-1947) from Bloemfontein to Johannesburg and Pretoria. Hamilton was a decorated soldier whose active service spanned the Second Anglo-Afghan War in 1879 to command at Gallipoli in 1915. Churchill first befriended then-Colonel Hamilton in India in 1897. Churchill would maintain a life-long friendship with Hamilton, to whom Churchill would sell his first country home and who "almost certainly" introduced Winston to the property that became most important to him – Chartwell. (Andrew Roberts, *Finest Hour* 189, 2020)

Like the U.S. first edition of *Ladysmith*, the U.S. first edition of *Ian Hamilton's March* is bound in pebble grain red buckram which proved durable yet susceptible to blotchy wear and discoloration, particularly on the spine. The U.S. first edition saw only a single printing. The definitive number sold is unclear, but seems to be fewer than 1,500.

Condition & Provenance

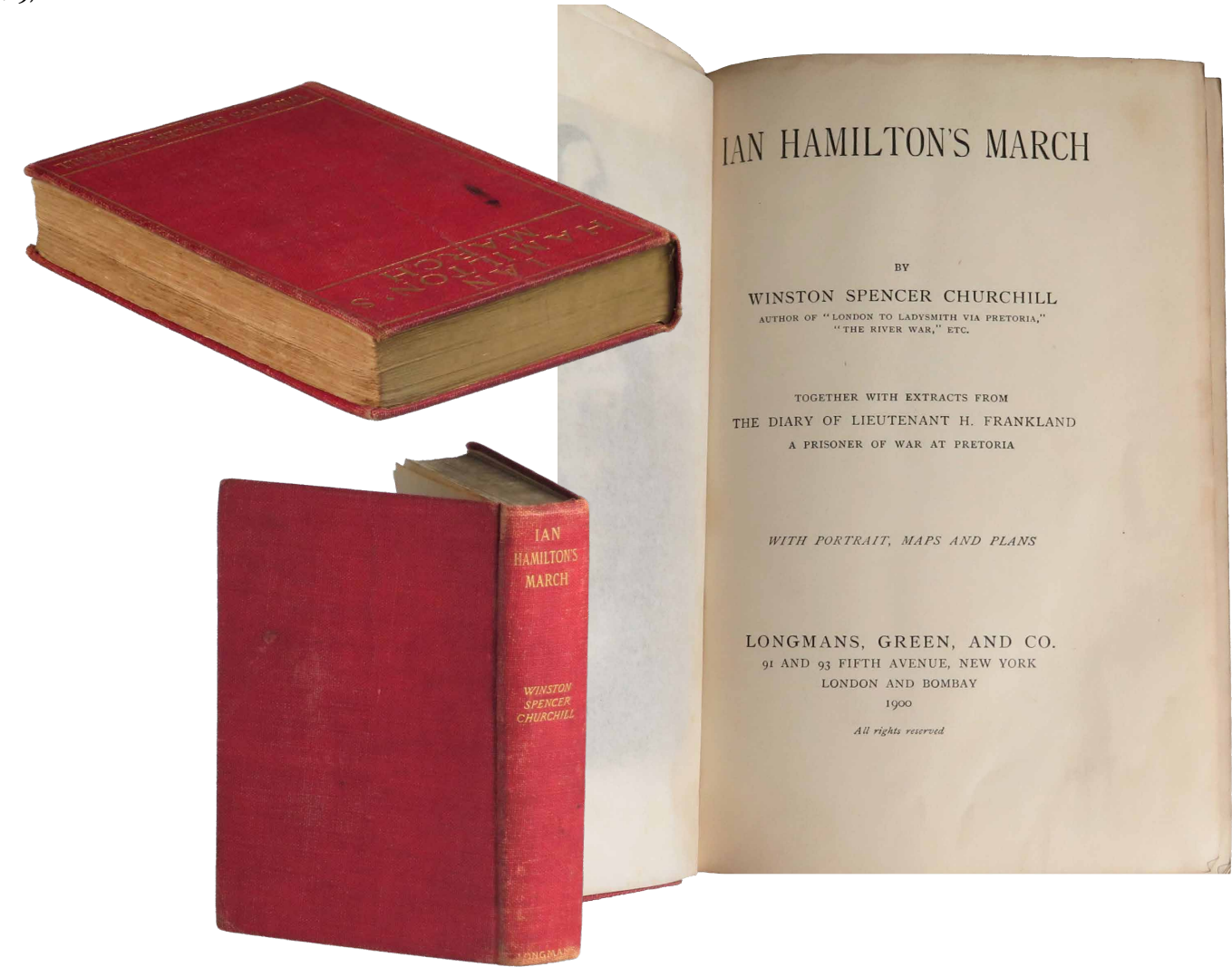
Condition of this signed copy is good plus – sound, original, and complete despite some typical wear and defects. The red cloth binding remains square and tight with bright gilt and no appreciable color shift between the covers and spine. Overall scuffing is most pronounced to the extremities, and there is a small, dark stain on the front cover. A single, faint, jagged vertical line – one on both the front and rear covers – seem to indicate that the boards were once a bit creased, but the boards nonetheless remain rigid and straight, with no fragility or warping. The contents are respectably clean and complete. The frontispiece, tissue guard, and maps are all intact, including the folding map following the text, though the map was previously mis-folded, as is typical, resulting in some fraying to the edges. The contents show moderate age-toning and the frontispiece was previously creased. Spotting is trivial, primarily confined to the first and final leaves and the fore edges. The gilt top edge is a bit dulled and scuffed, but still distinctly gilt.

The outer corners of the front free endpaper recto and final free endpaper verso show tape stains. This copy came to us from a private collection, where it long resided. The tape stains result from a well-intentioned but ill-conceived effort to protect the book. The book was long ago fitted with a homemade glassine wrapper, the inner flaps of which were secured by tape – which of course was not archival and stained the pages against which it lay. The glassine was on the book long enough to have toned and brittleed with age and the tape – as evidenced by the stains – to have toned, stiffened, and lost adhesion.

We find no previous ownership marks – only the author's signature. Churchill's signature, "Winston S. Churchill" in black ink on the upper front free endpaper recto, is consonant in location, style, and characteristics with other Churchill signatures in books signed during his first North American Lecture tour. The ink remains distinct, with no significant age-spreading or toning.

Reference: Cohen A8.2, Woods/ICS A5(ca), Langworth p.61. [CBC # 006662]

\$15,000 USD



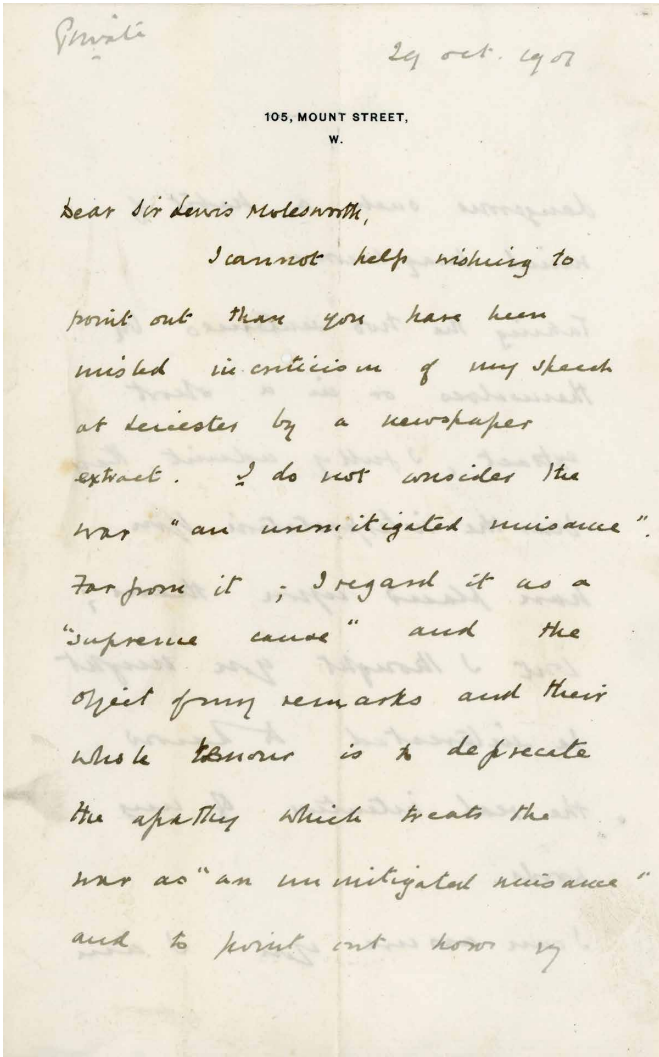


5

“an unmitigated nuisance”

A 29 October 1901 autograph letter signed by 26-year-old Winston S. Churchill to a fellow newly-elected Member of Parliament responding to criticism of a recent speech by Churchill about the Boer War

105, Mount Street, W., London, 1901



This is a 29 October 1901 autograph letter signed by 26-year-old Winston S. Churchill, then a new member of Parliament, to a fellow newly-elected MP who had criticized a recent speech about the Boer War. The letter is noteworthy for presaging the dangers of Churchill’s rhetorical inclinations, as an early tutorial for Churchill in the hazards of the political press, and as a harbinger of how Churchill’s perpetual unorthodoxy would vex notional allies.

The letter

The 155-word letter, written entirely in Churchill’s hand on three panels of a folded, single sheet of his new “105, Mount Street, W.” stationery, is marked “*Private*” at the upper left and dated “29 oct. 1901” at the upper right. The body of the letter reads: “Dear Sir Lewis Molesworth, | I cannot help wishing to | point out that you have been | misled in criticism of my speech | at Leicester by a newspaper | extract. I do not consider the | war “an unmitigated nuisance”. | Far from it; I regard it as a “supreme cause” and the | object of my remarks and their | whole tenor is to deprecate | the apathy which treats the | war as “an unmitigated nuisance” | and to point out how vy [sic] | dangerous such a habit of | mind may become. | Taking the two sentences by | themselves or in a short | extract, I fully admit, they | bear the interpretation you | have placed upon them; | but I thought you might | be interested to know | the real intention of my | words. | I can assure you I am | far from regarding this | war with levity or inattention. | But no doubt you have suffered | yourself from necessary | newspaper compression.” Churchill’s valediction follows, “Yours vy [sic] truly”, followed by his signature “Winston S. Churchill”.

The stationery is a single 10 x 8 inch (25.4 x 20.3 cm) laid paper sheet watermarked “Joynson | Superfine” and folded vertically to form four 8 x 5 inch (20.3 x 12.7 cm) panels, the first of which is printed in dark navy “105, MOUNT STREET, | W.”

Churchill had been first elected to Parliament just a year before, on 1 October 1900, and had taken his seat in the House of Commons only eight and a half months earlier, on 14 February 1901. Churchill’s stationery was new, too. “105, Mount Street, W.” was the address of Churchill’s first bachelor flat. He took over the unexpired two years of a lease by his cousin, Charles Richard John “Sunny” Spencer-Churchill, 9th Duke of Marlborough. Churchill would reside at Mount Street for nearly five years, until late 1905. (R. Churchill, Vol. II, p.28)

Condition of the letter is very good. The stationery is whole and complete apart from a tiny hole in the first panel above the word “criticism” that does not impact text on either the recto or verso. The stationery is further folded into quarters, ostensibly for original mailing, and lightly soiled overall, appreciably only at the folds. On the upper right of the blank rear panel is pencil notation “42 C” with an indecipherable pencil mark beside. Adhered to the right edge of this blank rear panel is the remains of a white strip measuring roughly 3 inches (7.6 cm) vertically that may be a remnant from the original envelope. The ink in Churchill’s hand remains distinct, not significantly age-faded, though varying naturally with the flow of his pen as he wrote. The letter is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

Two new Members of Parliament and the war that elected them

Sir Lewis William Molesworth (1853-1912), 11th baronet, was 21 years Churchill’s senior but, like Churchill, new to Parliament. Each was each elected to Parliament for the first time in October 1900, the final general election of Queen Victoria’s reign, each after having run and lost previously. At the time, the Liberal Unionist and Conservative parties were at the midpoint of a ten-year coalition government and each man represented one of the two parties. Fittingly, given the so-called “Khaki election” that had elevated these men to Parliament, each owed his election to the Boer War – though in very different ways.

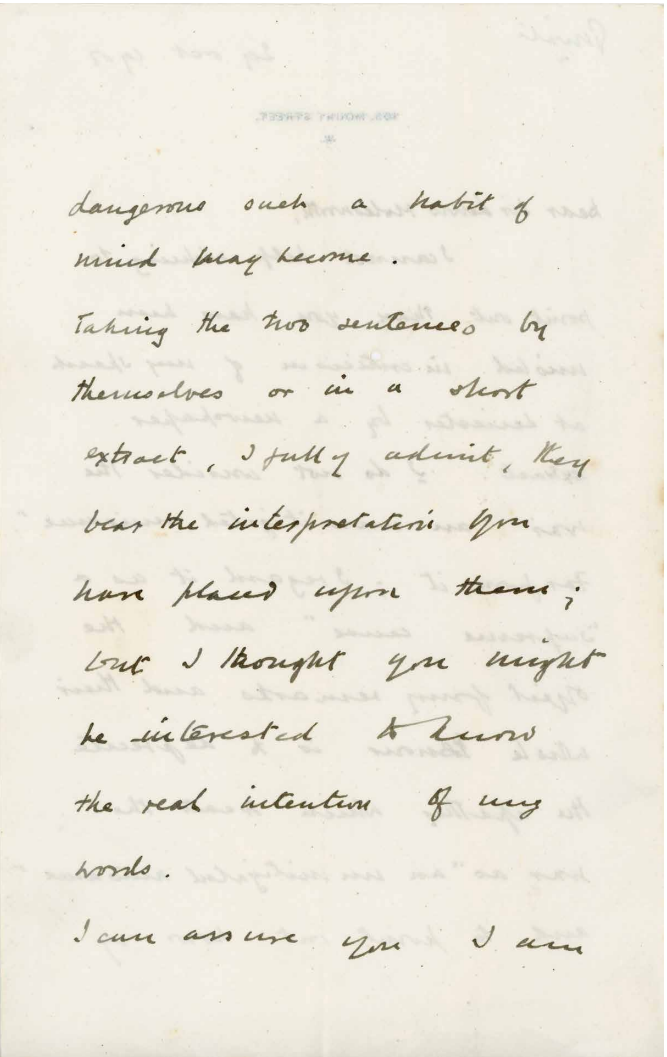
Molesworth had first contested for a seat in Parliament in the 1892 general election, running under a Liberal Unionist banner for Launceston in his home county of Cornwall. Having lost in that first attempt, he was eventually elected for Bodmin in 1900. The former MP’s opposition to the Government’s South Africa policy was decisive in his loss, allowing Molesworth to supplant him. This, perhaps, explained Molesworth’s vigor and cheek with his fellow MP and Conservative Party ally in ostensibly questioning the seriousness of Churchill’s regard for the war – Churchill of course, being the one who was actually a combatant and hero of the conflict. Molesworth’s Parliamentary career was brief; he served only a single term, until the general election of 1906, his retirement attributed to health. Molesworth died six years later, aged only 58.

Molesworth’s military experience consisted of having at some point, perhaps in the 1880s, served as an officer in the West Somerset Yeomanry cavalry. Twenty-six years old and young enough to be Molesworth’s son, Churchill had nonetheless passed out of Sandhurst, been commissioned as a cavalry officer, and become one of the highest paid war correspondents in the world. He reported from battlefields on three different continents - “From the jungles of Cuba and the mountains of the North-West [Indian] frontier to the banks of the Nile and the plains of South Africa” - and saw more than his share of fighting and danger.

For Churchill, the Boer War was more than a policy platform; it made Churchill famous and launched his political career. In October 1899, the second Boer War erupted between the descendants of Dutch settlers in South Africa and the British. Churchill, an adventure-seeking young cavalry officer and war correspondent, swiftly found himself in South Africa with the 21st Lancers and an assignment as press correspondent to the *Morning Post*. Not long thereafter, on 15 November 1899, Churchill was captured during a Boer ambush of an armored train. A month later Churchill made a daring and improbable escape, making his way to Durban via Portuguese East Africa with the Boers offering reward for his capture “dead or alive”.

Churchill returned from South Africa in July 1900 and spent the summer campaigning hard in Oldham. Churchill had lost the Oldham by-election – his first attempt at Parliament – in July 1899. Since then, as Arthur Balfour (who became Prime Minister in 1902) put it in a 30 August 1900 letter, the young Churchill had had “fresh opportunities - admirably taken advantage of – for shewing the public of what stuff you are made.” Indeed; Churchill won his first seat in the so-called “khaki election” significantly influenced by the Boer War. The itinerant cavalry officer and war correspondent would serve in Parliament for more than six decades, holding Cabinet office in every decade of the first half of the twentieth century, including two premierships spanning more than eight and half years at 10 Downing Street.

While Churchill attributed Molesworth’s criticism to a misleading newspaper extract, there was certainly some genuine underlying policy disagreement between Churchill and the Government. Churchill would famously defect from the Conservatives to become a Liberal in 1904, and “Churchill’s drift away from the Conservative Party was hastened by Conservative attitudes to the Boer War.” (Gilbert, *A Life*, p.145)





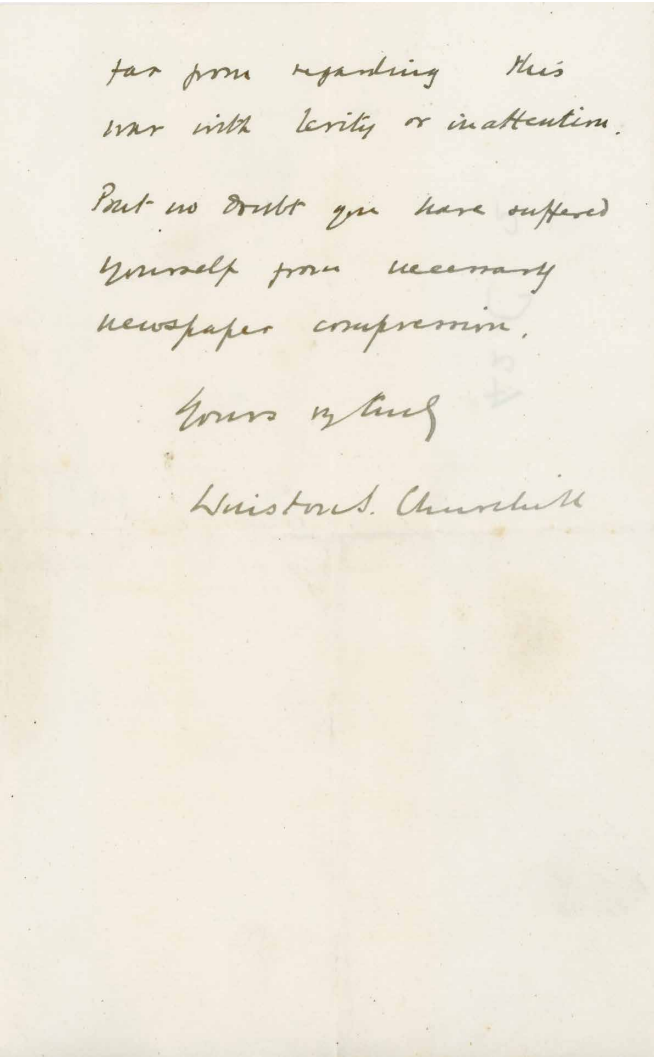
Mutual ado, some justified

There may have been no legitimate offense for Molesworth to take at the specific subject phrase in Churchill’s speech. But Molesworth had just been elected because he was volubly more pro-war than his displaced Parliamentary predecessor, and Churchill was certainly not adhering unreservedly to the Government’s party line.

The speech Churchill gave in Leicester on 23 October 1901 was one in a series of October speeches giving his perspective on the Boer War. As Churchill explained thirty years later, “I was all for fighting the war... At the same time I admired the dauntless resistance of the Boers, resented the abuse with which they were covered and hoped for an honourable peace... I was in revolt against ‘jingoism’”. (Churchill, *My Early Life*, pp.381-82) Speaking at Saddleworth in Yorkshire on 4 October, Churchill had appealed for a “supreme effort” to end the war in South Africa. Speaking the next day to the Stanley Road Conservative Club in Oldham, Churchill cautioned against poor treatment of captured Boers. Churchill’s position was certainly not anti-war. In his 7 October speech to Oldham’s St. Paul’s Conservative Club, Churchill said “Let us get victory and dictate peace on our own terms.” Nonetheless, in the same speech he observed “the cost of the war is as great as ever, and the strain may inflict the gravest injury on the commercial and trade interests of the country”. In short, Churchill’s position was that both of a politician in wartime and of a former combatant sensitized to the nuances, irrevocable costs, and mutual inhumanities of war.

On the morning of 23 October Churchill wrote a letter to former Prime Minister Lord Rosebery opening “I am in a state of jumps this morning, because I am off to Leicester to make another speech on much the same lines as the last”. Later that day, Churchill addressed a Unionist Demonstration in Leicester. After an introduction reviewing the strains imposed by the ever-lengthening war, Churchill said: “The cost of the war in blood and treasure continues. The means of meeting it are gradually and seriously reduced... The resolve is not less strong, but the course is no longer clear, and the interest flags. The war has ceased to be a supreme cause; it has become an unmitigated nuisance.” It seems quite likely that these 15 words were the ones excerpted by a newspaper and which prompted Molesworth’s own letter to Churchill. But recorded with the words of this speech is the fact that the “unmitigated nuisance” comment elicited “(Laughter)”. (*His Complete Speeches*, Vol. I, p.107) Moreover, Churchill next said “Apathy, helplessness, a strange unhealthy sense of detachment subdues the nation and over-powers the Government. Whether it be a matter of ending the war, or of reforming the army, or even of paying the Yeomanry what is properly owed to them, it is necessary to stand over the War Office with a stick to get anything done.” This again drew laughter. “That is why we would do well to keep a sharp supervision in regard to affairs which so vitally affect our interests.” Churchill went on to contradict the “popular view” that “everything muddled and mismanaged” was the fault of politicians rather than Generals, apportioning both virtue and blame to both civilian and military leadership.

This was what would become quintessential Churchillian rhetoric. Criticism, even serious criticism, but leavened with humor, both to soften delivery of reasoned argument and cultivate fair consideration. Perhaps the offending reporter whose encapsulation piqued Sir Lewis Molesworth did not understand the intended irony of Churchill’s characterization of the war as “an unmitigated nuisance”. More likely, given the fact that the comment drew presumably intended laughter, and was both prefaced and followed by serious, thoughtful, and balanced commentary, the reporter simply found it convenient to isolate a passage for the purpose of rendering it inflammatory. It appears that Molesworth took the bait; Churchill’s letter appears a response to a chiding from Molesworth.



Churchill’s letter in response to Molesworth may be read as explanatory and accommodating – “Taking the two sentences by themselves or in a short extract, I fully admit, they bear the interpretation you place upon them... I thought you might be interested to know the real intention of my words.” But in Churchill’s letter one can also glean a note of annoyance and even veiled sarcasm: “...the object of my remarks and their whole tenor is to deprecate the apathy which treats the war as an “unmitigated nuisance” and to point out how very dangerous such a habit of mind may become... no doubt you have suffered yourself from necessary newspaper compression.”

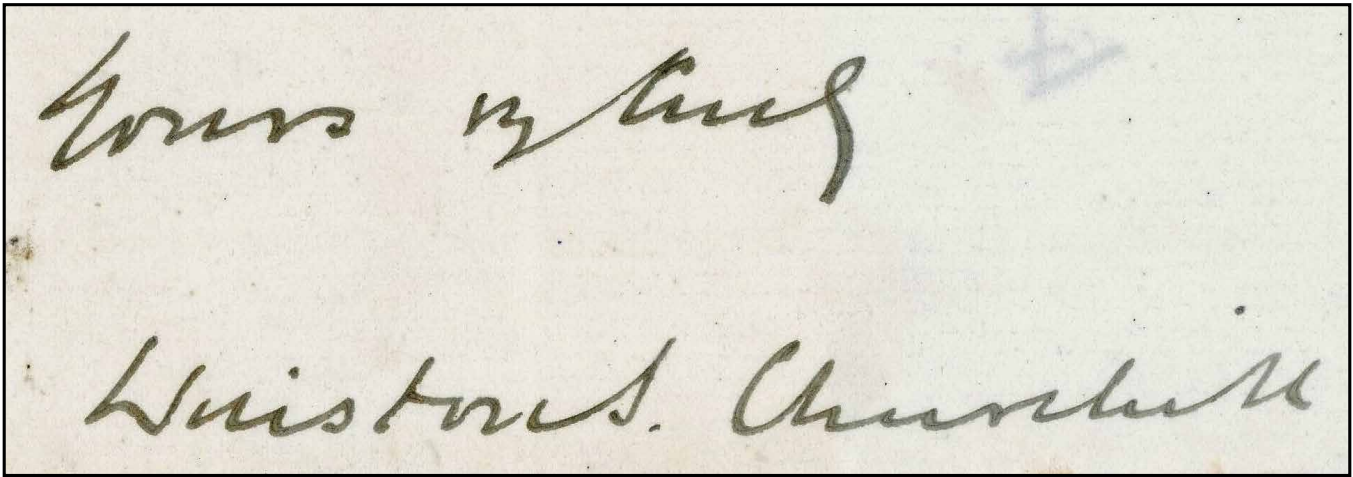
It seems Churchill may have had legitimate cause for complaint. Lord Rosebery, both a staunch imperialist and skilled orator, told Churchill in a 10 November 1901 letter “your speech of Oct 23... seems to me to express what has become the patent truth in a striking way...” On 12 November 1901 Churchill’s cousin, the Duke of Marlborough, wrote to him “The meeting at Leicester went off all right. Your speech was appreciated by those who were present and I think every one was satisfied. The reports in the Press were poor but of that I do not mind.” (Gilbert, *Documents Vol. 3*, p.96)

After taking his new seat in Parliament in mid-February, “Altogether in the eleven months of 1901 he made nine speeches in the House, some thirty speeches in the country and lectured in twenty towns... He continued to be concerned about his lisp, though his frequent public speaking in the House of Commons and in the country and in the lecture platform was beginning to cure him of this lingering impediment and at the same time to rid him of any inhibition which it had caused him.” (R. Churchill, *Vol. II*, p.29) In short, evidenced both by his 23 October speech and this firm reply to a Parliamentary colleague who wrote to criticize him, Churchill was gaining in oratorical capability and confidence, and growing surer of the often contrarian ideas and perspectives he expressed with that oratory.

It is remarkable to realize that when he wrote this letter, more than six decades of hostile characterization and unfavorable interpretation of his public remarks still lay before Churchill. The letter is also an interesting harbinger both of Churchill’s forthcoming break with the Conservative Party and his lifelong habit of defying orthodoxy, even that of political and personal allies. Churchill became a Liberal for nearly two decades. Even though he eventually returned to the Conservative Party fold, he warred with his own Conservative Party throughout the 1930s. By the time of then-Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain’s 1938 Munich concessions to Hitler, so vehement was Churchill’s dissent with his own Party leadership that Churchill had effectively become leader of the opposition. Nonetheless, on 10 May 1940 he became Prime Minister – not of a Conservative government, but of a wartime Coalition government. Churchill would not actually head a Conservative government until his second and final premiership of 1951-1955 – half a century and two world wars after this letter was written. By the time of Churchill’s premierships, Victorian colonial wars would seem quaint and simple and any ironic statements about war being “an unmitigated nuisance” would be gallows humor indeed.

[CBC #006268]

\$9,000 USD



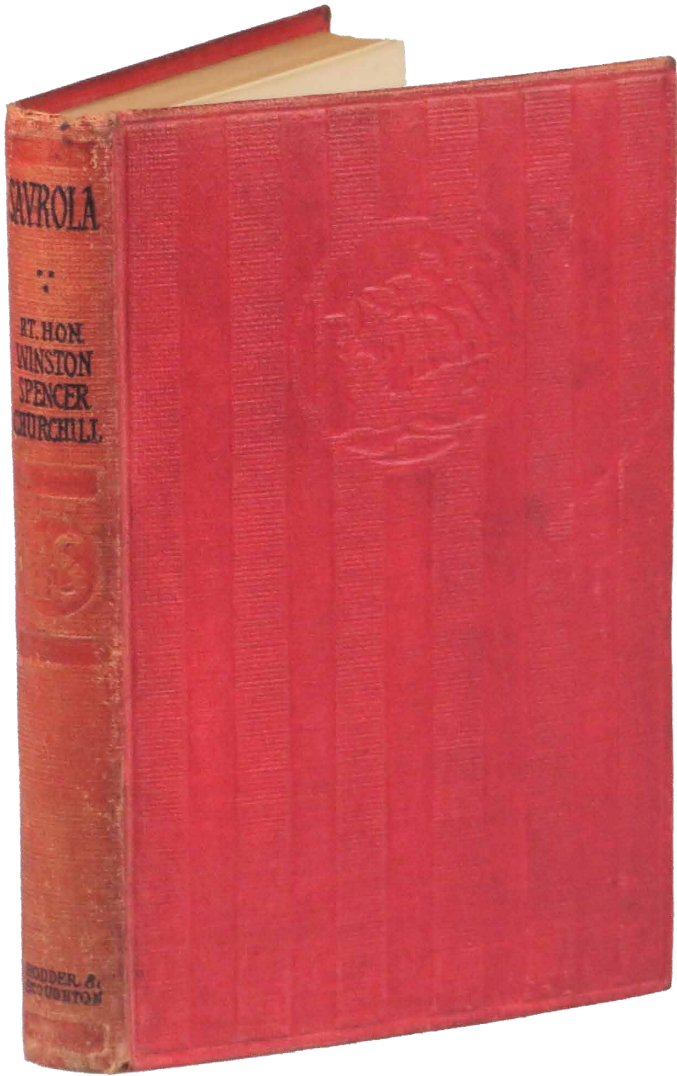


6

Savrola

Churchill's only novel, a First World War edition signed and dated during the Second World War by Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill in April 1941, with a presentation letter on 10 Downing Street stationery from Grace Hamblin, "the longest serving and most loyally devoted of Winston Churchill's inner circle"  
*Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1915*

This inscribed and dated copy of *Savrola* is likely singular thus. Churchill's only novel, *Savrola* was originally published in 1900. This third ("Sevenpenny Library") edition was published during the First World War in 1915, the year Churchill was scapegoated for failure in the Dardanelles, forced to resign as First Lord of the Admiralty, and left England to fight in the trenches of the Western Front. Like Churchill, this copy survived, fated to be signed and dated by Churchill more than a quarter of a century later in April 1941, less than a year into Churchill's wartime premiership. Improbably this copy was inscribed during one of the most fraught periods of the war – apparently either at the behest of or with the support of Churchill's wife. It was returned to the unidentified recipient by Winston and Clementine Churchill's private secretary, evidenced by an accompanying typed, signed letter.

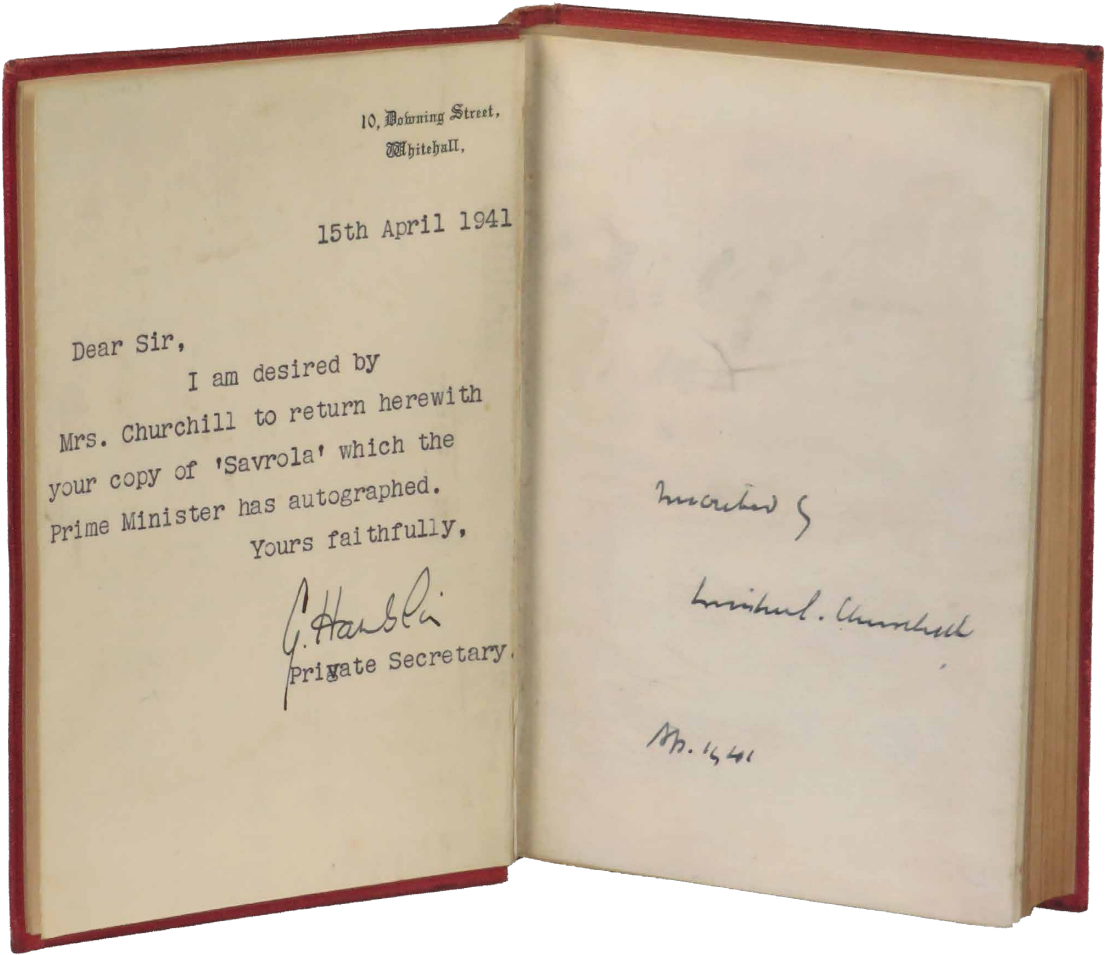


With the passage of time, Churchill had decidedly mixed feelings about his sole novel. This may explain why signed or inscribed copies of *Savrola* are quite scarce. This is the only signed copy of the Sevenpenny Library edition we have ever offered. That it is signed in the first year of Churchill's wartime premiership is truly remarkable. And if that were not enough, this is the scarce second state of the edition, distinguished by the "1915" date printed on the title page.

Inscription and letter

Churchill's inscription, inked in black in three lines on the frontispiece verso, reads: "*Inscribed by | Winston S. Churchill | Apr. 1941*".

On the facing verso of the preceding blank the recipient of this inscribed copy edge-trimmed and affixed a typed letter on "10, Downing Street" stationery signed by Grace Hamblin, private secretary to Winston and Clementine Churchill. The letter is dated "*15th April 1941*" and reads "*Dear Sir, | I am desired by | Mrs. Churchill to return herewith | your copy of 'Savrola' which the | Prime Minister has autographed.*" Below the typed valedictory "*Yours faithfully,*" and above the typed title "*Private Secretary*" Ms. Hamblin signed "*G. Hamblin*".



Condition

This was a handsome little edition featuring a red cloth binding elaborately blind-stamped with differentially textured vertical columns and a publisher's device on the front cover and both blind stamping and black print on the spine. The contents are bound with an illustrated frontispiece. Unfortunately, the edition proved fragile. Richard Langworth rightly observed that "the pages are subject to yellowing and brittleness, and the red covers and spine will fade easily if subjected to much light." (Langworth, *A Connoisseur's Guide*, p.45)

This inscribed third edition, second state, approaches very good condition overall, sound and complete despite pardonable evidence of age and exposure. The red cloth binding remains square and tight with sharp corners and clearly legible black spine print. The red spine hue is moderately sunned. The boards retain stronger red hue, though the binding overall is lightly soiled with minor shelf wear primarily confined to extremities, including a touch of fraying at the spine ends.

The contents are age-toned as usual, though otherwise clean, with no spotting or previous ownership marks. The contents are certainly becoming brittle, but less so than we often encounter in the edition. We do note closed tears to the bottom and top edges of the pp.73-74 leaf and a small chip to the blank right margins of pages 73-80. The frontispiece and title page, printed on better quality, coated paper, remain bright. The endpapers are clean apart from transfer browning from the pastedown glue.

Second state of the edition is confirmed "by the insertion of the publication date, 1915, in 5-point type below the names of the three cities on the title page." Churchill's bibliographer, Ronald Cohen, observes that "there is no way of determining how many... copies of this edition include this title page revision" but that such second state copies "are much scarcer than first state copies." (Cohen, *Vol. I*, p.80, A3.6.a)

Churchill's inscription remains clear, with no appreciable spreading or fading, despite mild soiling to the page itself. The letter affixed to the facing blank leaf verso was clearly trimmed before being carefully affixed, but only at the cost of blank margins.



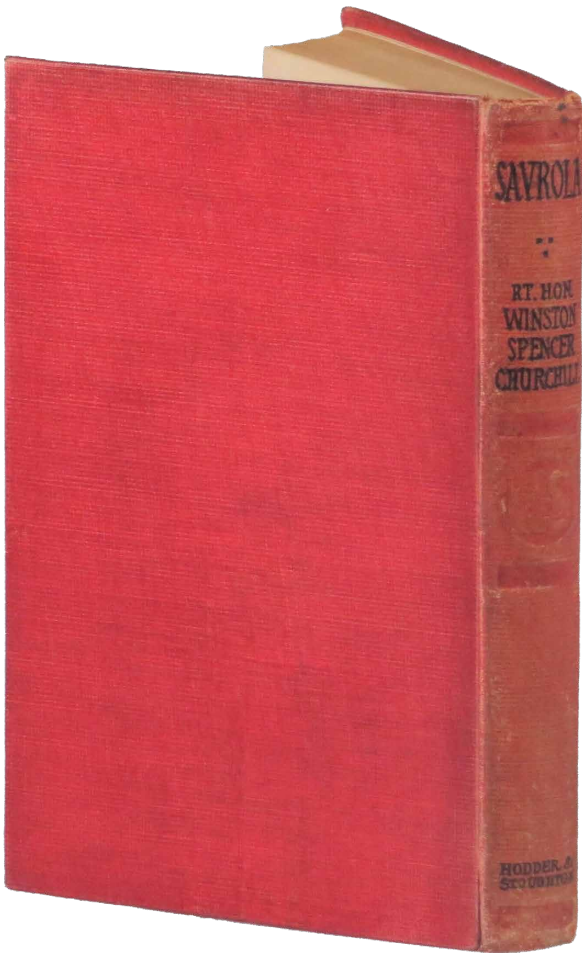
The improbability of an inscription in April 1941

In the closing days of April, 1941, Churchill broadcast his famous “Westward, Look, the Land is Bright” speech to the British people, telling them “Nothing that is happening now is comparable in gravity with the dangers through which we passed last year.” Typically, even as he spoke of “an exaltation of spirit in the people” Churchill mixed practical information on the war and admonition that “There is only one thing certain about war, that it is full of disappointments and also of mistakes.” This was not hyperbole and, if anything, understated Britain’s trials. When Churchill became Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. Churchill’s first year in office saw, among other near-calamities, the Battle of the Atlantic, the fall of France, evacuation at Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain. In April 1941 the Blitz continued over Britain, merchant shipping losses in the Atlantic mounted, and there were imminent battles in Crete, Cyrenaica, and Iraq, with consequent threats to Egypt and the Middle East - all with the United States still more than half a year away from formally entering the war. Invasion of England by Nazi Germany remained a plausible threat. In April 1941 – perhaps as this book was signed – British forces were being evacuated from Greece, ceding one more territory and victory to Nazi Germany.

All of which is to say that Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill had more pressing matters on his agenda than inscribing a copy of his only novel, written more than four decades prior, for an unidentified recipient. An explanation of how this 1915 edition of *Savrola* came to be inscribed by the Prime Minister in April 1941 is suggested by the accompanying letter.

At the time, Grace Hamblin was serving as private secretary to Clementine Churchill. Grace would prove to be “the longest serving and most loyally devoted of Winston Churchill’s inner circle.” By 1941, she had already been with the Churchills for nearly a decade. She would spend “virtually her entire career as private secretary, first to Winston and from 1939 to Clementine”. The letter from Hamblin and explanation therein – “I am desired by Mrs. Churchill to return herewith your copy of ‘Savrola’...” – strongly suggest an explanation. We can reasonably speculate that the recipient was either known to Clementine or wrote compellingly to Clementine, sending her this copy – whether unsolicited or by invitation – with a request for Churchill’s signature therein. The recipient’s enlistment of the support of both Clementine Churchill and Grace Hamblin created forces of advocacy for this inscription that a mere husband and prime minister apparently could not resist – the fall of Greece, marauding Nazis on land, sea, and air, and the relentless bombing of London notwithstanding.

Grace Hamblin’s own signature merits further mention. “She was one of the few around Winston Churchill who refused any opportunity for personal profit out of her long years and inside knowledge.” Not only did she serve Winston and Clementine for long years, dating to the early “Wilderness Years” of the 1930s, but after Winston’s death she continued to serve the Churchills’ life and legacy. In 1966 Hamblin became the first Administrator of Chartwell, the Churchills’ beloved country home, when the property was handed over to the National Trust. And in the decades that followed, she became an “often consulted” living memory of Churchill, equally and appropriately impatient with “those who questioned or belittled Sir Winston’s achievements, and slapdash admirers who were careless with their facts.” (Langworth, “Remembering Grace Hamblin”, *Finest Hour* 117)



The work and edition

When *Savrola* was first published in February 1900, a very young Churchill was exuberant. Even though *Savrola* was his third published book, it was actually the first book he began writing and the second he completed. His “Tale of the Revolution in Laurania” is a melodramatic tale of political intrigue in a fictional Mediterranean state. He later made deprecating comments about his novel and it is perhaps instructive that he never wrote another despite an exceptionally long and prolific writing career. In his 1930 autobiography he wrote, “I have consistently urged my friends to abstain from reading it [Savrola].”

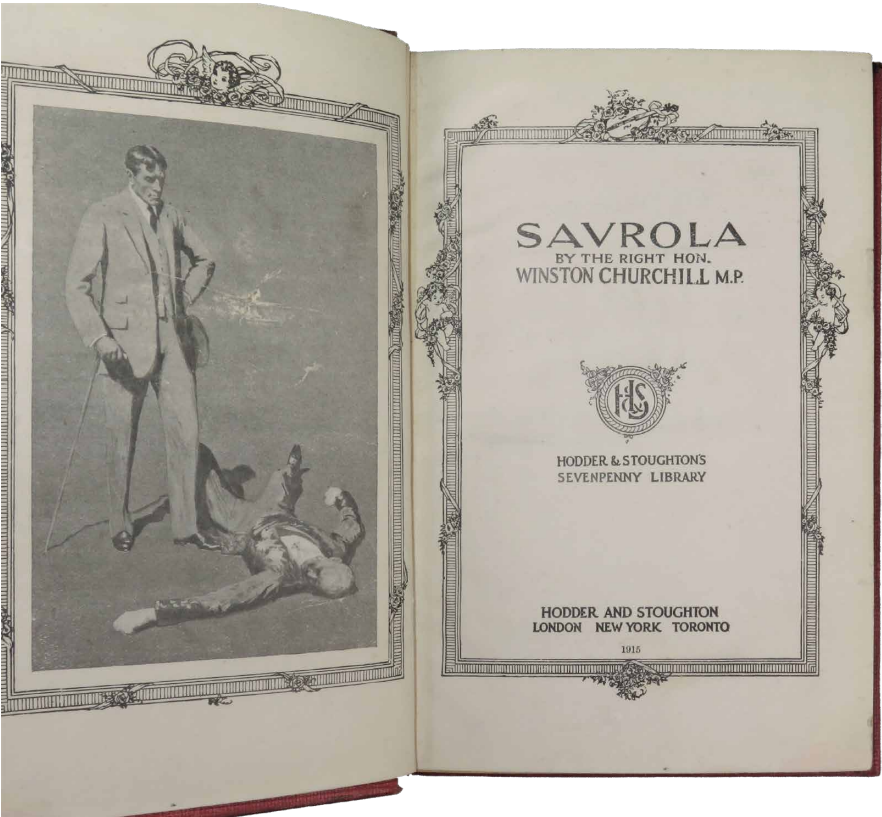
It has been argued that, as a literary effort, *Savrola* gave “dramatic voice to Churchill’s mature philosophical reflections about his fundamental political and ethical principles at the very moment when he settled on them for the rest of his life.” (Powers, *Finest Hour* #74) Irrespective of Churchill’s feelings about his book or the literary merit thereof, the novel certainly provides an interesting insight into the early political perspective and sentiment of the then very young Churchill.

During the First World War, fifteen years after the first edition was published, initial interest in a prospective sevenpenny *Savrola* was expressed by the publisher Thomas Nelson & Sons. Nelson published such an edition of both *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* (1916) and *The River War* (1915). However, nothing came of Nelson’s preliminary interest - “the contract to publish a sevenpenny edition of *Savrola* was made between Hodder & Stoughton and Churchill on 22 March 1915.” Publication was on 20 June 1915.

These months spanned a momentous time within a momentous year for Churchill. In 1915, Churchill was writing history, not fiction. He was the wartime First Lord of the Admiralty, but after the disaster in the Dardanelles he was scapegoated by his peers and his Prime Minister and forced out of the Cabinet. The contract to publish this edition was made only days after the withdrawal of the Franco-British naval attack on the Dardanelles and less than a month before Churchill was forced to resign from the Admiralty. By the end of 1915, Churchill would go from the Cabinet to the Front. There he would serve as a lieutenant colonel leading a battalion in the trenches before being exonerated by war’s end and returning to the Government.

Reference: Cohen A3.6.b, Woods A3(d), Langworth p.44. [CBC #006844]

\$9,000 USD





# 7 The World Crisis

A full set of six British first edition, first printings, inscribed and dated by Churchill prior to publication in the 1915 volume to the Prime Minister who scapegoated him for the Dardanelles disaster and forced Churchill's resignation from the Cabinet in 1915  
*Thornton Butterworth Limited, London, 1923-1931*

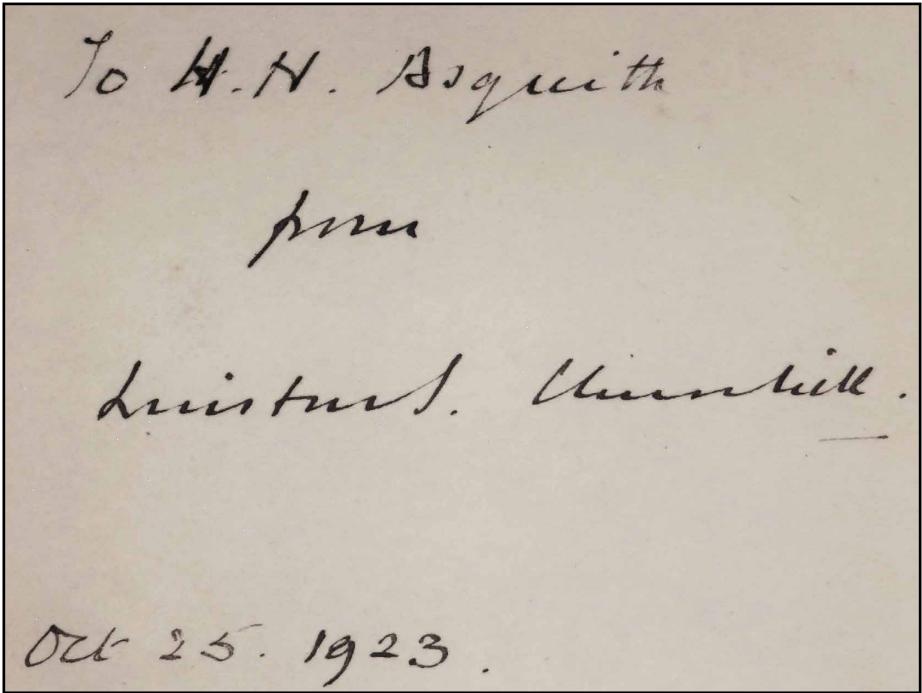
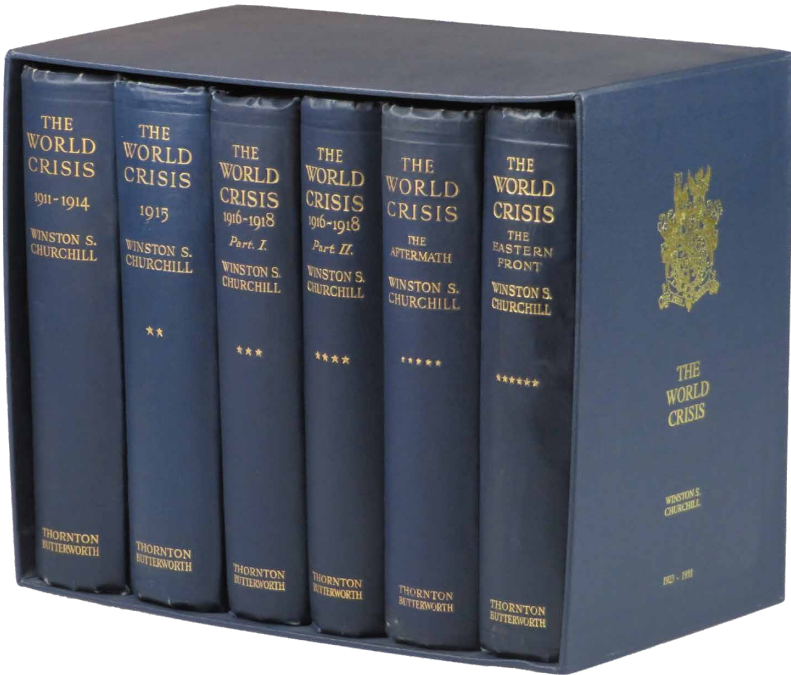
This is a full, six-volume, British first edition, first printing set of Winston S. Churchill's history of the First World War, anchored by a remarkable association copy. The second, pivotal, 1915 volume – the volume in which Churchill's perspective on the disastrous Dardanelles offensive is recounted – is inscribed and dated by Churchill prior to publication to Herbert Asquith, the Prime Minister who scapegoated Churchill and forced his resignation in 1915.

Churchill inscribed this presentation copy five days prior to publication in five lines on the blank recto preceding the half title. The inscription reads: "H. H. Asquith | from | Winston S. Churchill | Oct 25. 1923." Churchill inscribed various volumes of *The World Crisis* to various important associations. Inscribed 1915 volumes are generally scarcer than later inscribed volumes. Few inscribed copies, if any, are as significant – and as pointed.

Asquith had nearly ruined Churchill. Then he had lost his wartime premiership to David Lloyd George, under whom Churchill was exonerated and eventually restored to the Cabinet. By 1923, Churchill had served under David Lloyd George as Minister of Munitions, Secretary of State for War and Secretary of State for Air, and Colonial Secretary. Yet despite the substantial redemption, the stigma of the Dardanelles lingered; Churchill had more than just literary and financial compulsion to write his history. In 1923, Asquith published his own war memoirs, *The Genesis of the War*, "which had none of the panache or indiscretion of Churchill's". (ODNB) Churchill's own history would prove the more widely read and better remembered. And – though it took a quarter of a century and a Second World War to prove it – Churchill eventually proved the decisive wartime leader that Asquith never was.

Regarding the Dardanelles disaster and his forced resignation, years later, Churchill's wife, Clementine, recalled to Churchill's official biographer "I thought he would never get over the Dardanelles; I thought he would die of grief." (Gilbert, Vol. III, p.473) In a profile of Asquith published more than twenty years later, Churchill wrote of Asquith and the Dardanelles: "Unhappily for himself and all others, he did not thrust to the full length of his convictions... Asquith did not hesitate to... end the political lives of half his colleagues... leave me to bear the burden of the Dardanelles, and sail on victoriously at the head of a Coalition Government." (Churchill, *Great Contemporaries*, p.148)

One can regard this inscribed presentation copy as an expression of respectful bygones by Churchill to his former Prime Minister. Churchill's career was characterized by frequent magnanimity and collaboration with political foes. But one can also regard this inscription in this particular volume as a very personal rebuke and literary repudiation. The interpretation is open to debate. The importance of the association is unequivocal.



## The edition

In October 1911, Asquith appointed then-36-year-old Winston Churchill First Lord of the Admiralty. Churchill entered the post with the brief to change war strategy and ensure the readiness of the world's most powerful navy. He did both. Even Secretary of State for War Lord Kitchener, with whom Churchill had been variously at odds for nearly two decades, told Churchill on his final day as First Lord "Well, there is one thing at any rate they cannot take from you. The Fleet was ready." (Churchill, *The World Crisis: 1915*, p.391) Nonetheless, when Churchill advocated successfully for a naval campaign in the Dardanelles that ultimately proved disastrous – a strategic initiative fully supported by Asquith – a convergence of factors sealed his political fate. Churchill was scapegoated and forced to resign, leaving the Admiralty in May 1915.

By November, Churchill resigned even his nominal Cabinet posts to spend the rest of his political exile as a lieutenant colonel leading a battalion in the trenches at the Front. Before war's end, Churchill was exonerated by the Dardanelles Commission and rejoined the Government, foreshadowing the political isolation and restoration he would experience two decades later leading up to the Second World War.

Characteristically, Churchill not only played a uniquely critical, controversial, and varied role in the "War to end all wars", but wrote about it, too. *The World Crisis* was published in six volumes between 1923 and 1931. The first four volumes span the 1911-1918 war years – 1911-1914, 1915, and two 1916-1918 volumes. Not surprisingly, the tumultuous and, for Churchill, disastrous year of the Dardanelles offensive - 1915 – is the only year that consumes an entire volume. Two supplemental volumes complete the work. The fifth volume, *The Aftermath*, covers the postwar years 1918-1928. As the title implies, *The Eastern Front*, the sixth and final volume, covers the eastern theatre.

The British first editions are handsome, pleasingly substantial, the text featuring generous margins and informative shoulder notes that summarize the contents of each page. Nonetheless, the smooth navy cloth bindings proved quite susceptible to wear and blistering of the cloth, the contents quite prone to spotting and toning.

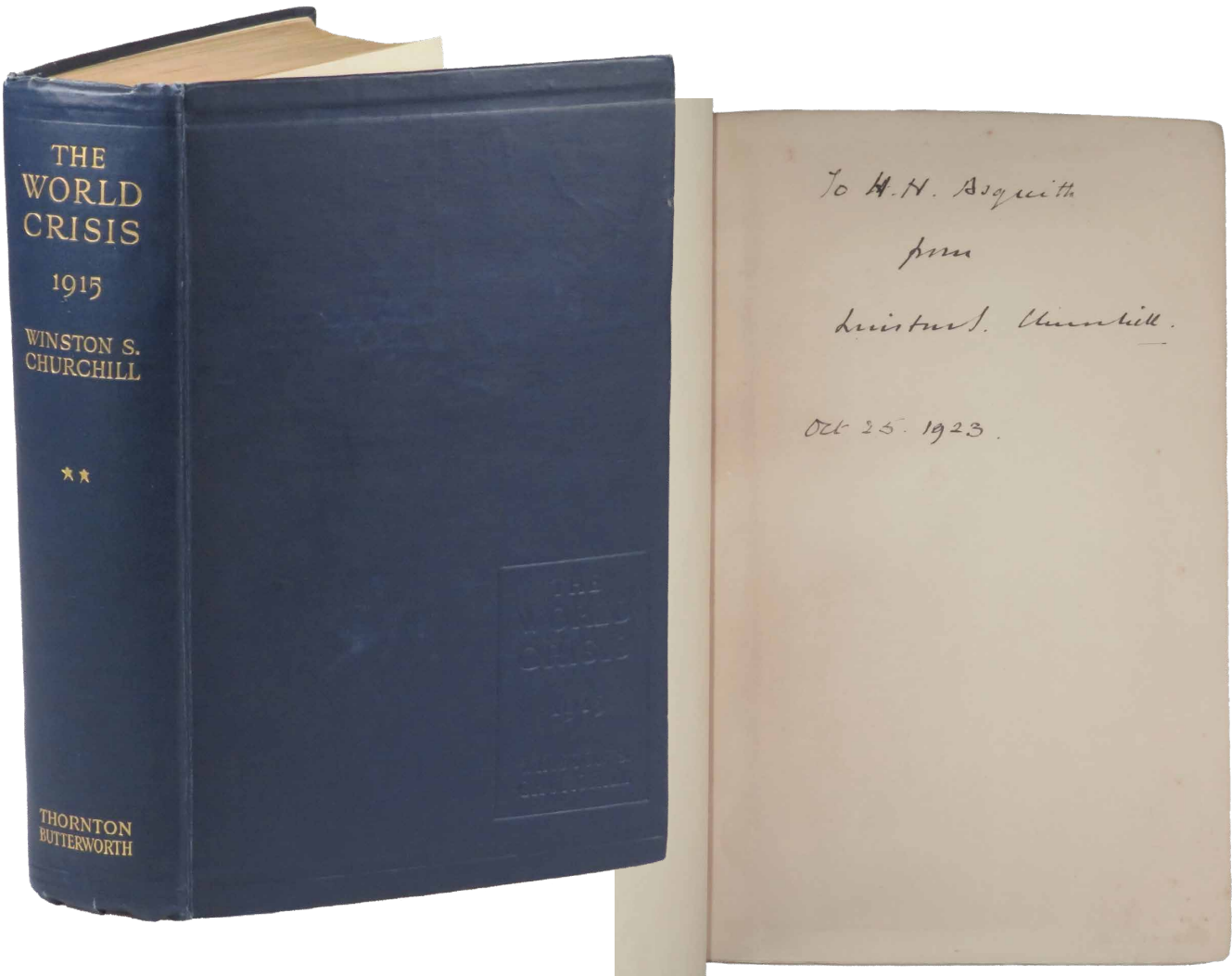


Condition

The inscribed first edition, first printing 1915 volume is in better than very good condition. The binding is square, tight, and clean. Modest shelf wear is substantially confined to extremities, including slight bumps to the bottom edge and upper right of the rear cover, a few slightly softened corners, and wrinkled spine ends. Shelf presentation is nonetheless superior, the spine nicely rounded with no creasing, no color-shift to the navy cloth, and vivid spine gilt. The boards are substantially free of the usual scuffing, showing only tiny spots of minor blistering. The contents are quite respectable for the edition, age-toned but clean with only incidental spotting that appears confined to the prelims.

The other five first edition, first printing volumes in this set are very good or better. All five bindings are square and tight with bright spine gilt. Modest shelf wear is primarily confined to extremities. The 1911-1914 boards show some light spots of discoloration, perhaps from fleeting and incidental moisture exposure. The first edition of *The Aftermath* is particularly prone to blistering of the cloth. Notably, this copy of *The Aftermath* is not only particularly bright and sharp, but shows only a hint of the usual blistering adjacent to the hinges. *The Eastern Front* is also a superior example with all illustrations and maps intact, including the color folding map at p.368. The contents are all cleaner than customary for the edition. Minor spotting is generally confined to prelims and page edges, and virtually absent in *The Eastern Front*. We find no previous ownership marks in the set other than the author's inscription in the 1915 volume.

The set is housed in a navy buckram slipcase with gilt title, author, publication dates, and the Churchill coat of arms in gilt on the right side.



The association

Herbert Henry Asquith, first Earl of Oxford and Asquith (1852-1928) served as Prime Minister from 1908-1916. He was the first Prime Minister to promote Winston S. Churchill to the Cabinet and under whom Churchill served the longest. He was also arguably the most destructive to Churchill's reputation and ambitions.

Twenty-two years Churchill's senior and born to a middle-class family in the wool trade, Asquith belonged to a different generation and social class than Churchill. Asquith began as a brilliant Oxford scholar with subsequent careers at the bar and in journalism before engaging as a participant in politics, first elected to Parliament in 1886. He served Gladstone as Home Secretary from 1892-1895. The year after young Winston Churchill crossed the aisle to become a Liberal, Asquith became Campbell-Bannerman's Chancellor of the Exchequer, serving from 1905-1908.

Upon becoming Prime Minister in 1908, Asquith appointed the "radical twins" David Lloyd George and Winston S. Churchill to the Cabinet, to the Exchequer and Board of Trade respectively. At 33, Churchill became one of the youngest British politicians appointed to a Cabinet. By appointing Lloyd George and Churchill, Asquith "reinforced the radical and activist side of Liberalism." (ODNB) This impetus drove a progressive menu of reforms culminating in political battles over "The People's Budget" and two General Elections in 1910. Then, in October 1911, Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty.

Churchill had been First Lord of the Admiralty for nearly three years before the start of the First World War, during which time he had worked feverishly to prepare the fleet, converting it from coal to oil, building high speed ships with 15-inch guns, and establishing the Royal Naval Air Service. Given the investment in the fleet there was pressure to ensure its active use in the war effort. "By the end of December 1914 several plans had come forward for finding a quicker means to victory than attrition and eventual breakthrough on the western front. At the cabinet of 13 January 1915 Asquith agreed to Churchill's plan for the navy to force the Dardanelles and thus make possible a much more effective allied effort on the eastern front." (ODNB) The Dardanelles campaign began in February 1915. "Brilliant in its conception, the assault... was under-equipped and woefully executed." (Otte, *Finest Hour* 188, 2020) In the end, the Anglo-French naval command turned back after losing several ships to mines. Doubling down, the War Council decided that Allied infantry should capture the Gallipoli Peninsula. Thereafter, the Secretary of War, Kitchener, dithered and delayed in deployment of forces. (Roberts, *Walking with Destiny*, pp.205-208) The failure and slaughter that ensued is well-known. The process that produced the disaster was summed up by Maurice Hankey, Secretary to the War Council, thus: "Behind each episode there lay a whole history of rumour, contradiction, conjecture, planning, preliminary movement discussion, decision, indecision, order, counter-order, before the climax was reached, often in a welter of bloodshed and destruction." (Bell, *Churchill and the Dardanelles*, p.357)

When an inevitable leadership crisis for Asquith's Government emerged in May, a new coalition Government was formed. The Conservatives demanded that Churchill – who had abandoned their Party in 1904, bedeviled them ever since, and become regarded by the Tories as a traitor to his class – be forced out. "Asquith, Lloyd George and Bonar Law agreed to form a new coalition government, on condition that Churchill and Lord Haldane, the Lord Chancellor and Asquith's close friend... were removed from their posts." (WWD, p.214)





Churchill, who mistakenly believed that Lloyd George still supported him, revealed the depth of his distress: “I know I am hurt, but as yet I cannot tell how badly. Later on I shall know the extent to which I am damaged, but now I only feel the shock.” (WWD, p.216) Churchill’s wife, Clementine, sent an admirably sincere, albeit intemperate and emotionally charged, letter to Asquith “in a last-ditch attempt to save her husband.” Asquith not only declined to reply, but read the letter aloud to lunch guests. (WWD, p.217)

Churchill had not been a distant subordinate. Asquith’s social circle included the Churchills and “He, his wife, and elder daughter were our guests on the Admiralty yacht for a month at a time in the three summers before the War.” Indeed, Violet Asquith would become a lifelong and devoted friend of Churchill, authoring a book of recollections about him the year he died (*Winston Churchill as I Knew Him*, 1965)

Moreover, both men suffered during the First World War, ostensibly reason for bonds to mend and endure. Churchill, of course, saw both his political and corporeal lives threatened – the former in his fall from the Cabinet, the second during time spent in the trenches at the Front. Asquith suffered not only the loss of his wartime premiership to David Lloyd George, but also the loss of a son. In his own sojourn at the Front “in November and December of 1915” Churchill saw Asquith’s eldest son, Raymond. Like his father, Raymond was an accomplished Oxford scholar. “When the Grenadiers strode into the crash and thunder of the Somme, he went to his fate cool, poised, resolute, matter-of-fact, debonair.” (GC, p.139) Asquith’s second surviving son “rose in the War from Sub-Lieutenant to Brigadier-General, gaining with repeated wounds amid the worst fighting the Distinguished Service Order with two clasps, and the Military Cross.” (GC, p.138)



Churchill praised Asquith’s intellect, his “orderly, disciplined mind”, and the fact that “A carefully-marshalled argument, cleanly printed, read by him at leisure, often won his approval and thereafter commanded his decisive support.” (GC, p.140.) Nonetheless, no doubt with the Dardanelles in mind, Churchill also noted, “...there was also a sense of scorn, lightly and not always completely veiled, for arguments, for personalities and even for events which did not conform to the pattern he had with so much profound knowledge and reflection decidedly adopted.” (GC, p.137)

Had Churchill merely been forced from the Admiralty, with the prospect of political rehabilitation he could have remained sanguine. But, being reconciled to the powerless sinecure of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster was a distinctly un-Churchillian prescription for recovery. And it was far from the only blow Asquith delivered. In July 1915, when Churchill wanted to visit Gallipoli on behalf of the Cabinet, Asquith first endorsed the plan but then failed to overrule Conservative opposition, forcing Churchill to abandon the trip. Months later, when the British Expeditionary Force Commander-in-Chief Sir John French offered Churchill command of a Brigade in France, Asquith did not overrule the objections of Kitchener, forcing Churchill to decline. By the end of 1915, Churchill had made it to the Front and was approved for promotion to Brigadier General – a promotion which Asquith personally vetoed, explicitly suggesting to Sir John French that Churchill be confined to command of a Battalion. (Gilbert, *Vol. III*, p.611)

Certainly, there seems little evidence that the two men warmly reconciled. In early 1922, Asquith accepted a dinner invitation from Churchill’s sister-in-law but reportedly stipulated that he should not meet Winston. The feelings were apparently mutual. On 4 February 1922, Churchill wrote to his wife, Clementine “...I cannot forget the way he deserted me over the Dardanelles, calmly leaving me to pay the sole forfeit of the policy which at every state he had actively approved. Still less can I forget his intervention after I had left the Government to prevent Bonar Law giving me the East African command and to deprive me of the Brigade to which French had already appointed me. Lastly, there was the vacancy in 1916 at the Ministry of Munitions, when he could quite easily have brought me back, as Lloyd George urged...I am not in the least vindictive... All the same I do not think there can be any doubt on which side the account of injury shows a balance.” (Gilbert, *Documents Volume 10*, pp.1751-2) This was how matters stood between the two men little more than a year before Churchill inscribed this volume to Asquith. It is a decidedly barbed compliment that Churchill later bestowed in saying “Mr. Asquith was probably one of the greatest peace-time Prime Ministers we have ever had.” (GC, pp.150-51)

The political arcs of each man sharply diverged after this inscription. Two years later, Churchill returned to the Conservative Party and to the Cabinet as Chancellor of the Exchequer. He would ultimately suffer still another – and more protracted – period of political isolation before returning to the Admiralty and to war in 1939 and ascending to the first of his two premierships in 1940.

By contrast, although he retained leadership of the Liberal Party, Asquith never regained the premiership after being replaced by Lloyd George in December 1916. And even such leadership as he retained proved hollow, fraught with “an undercurrent of acrimony” with his former subordinate and overshadowed by the electoral eclipse of the Liberals by Labour. “In the last decisive act of his long political career, Asquith put the first Labour government into office by persuading the Liberal Party... that this was the correct course of action”. (ODNB) Asquith was repaid by losing his seat in Parliament to Labour the following year and a subsequent defeat of his nomination for the chancellorship of Oxford. While the once-young-Liberal-lion, Churchill, returned to the Conservative Party, Asquith, the aging progressive who had waged political war with the House of Lords ultimately accepted the Garter and an earldom.

Reference: Cohen A69.2(I).b, (II).a, (III-1&2).a, (IV).b, (V).a; Woods/ICS A31(ab); Langworth p.105 [CBC #006661]

\$30,000 USD



8 A Roving Commission

A presentation copy inscribed and dated in New York City by Churchill on Christmas 1931 during his convalescence weeks after a near-fatal accident  
*Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1930*

This is a presentation copy of the U.S. first edition, later printing of Churchill's extremely popular autobiography, inscribed in New York City in December 1931, just weeks after Churchill's near-fatal accident, almost certainly as a Christmas gift to one of the people who aided his convalescence.

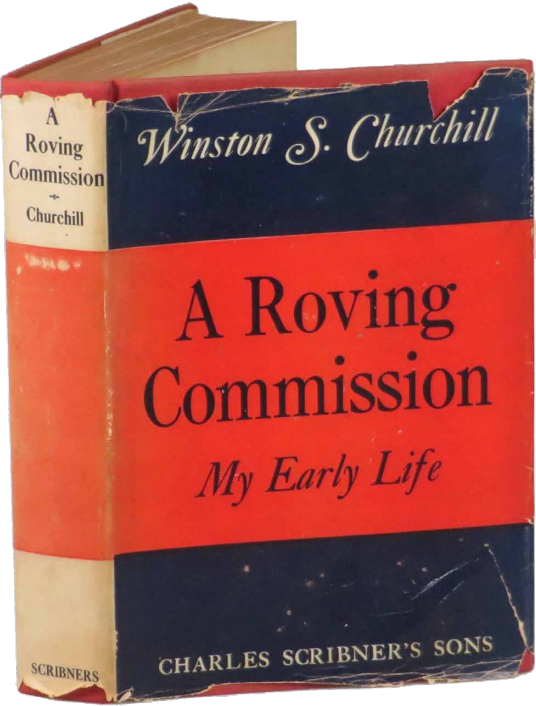
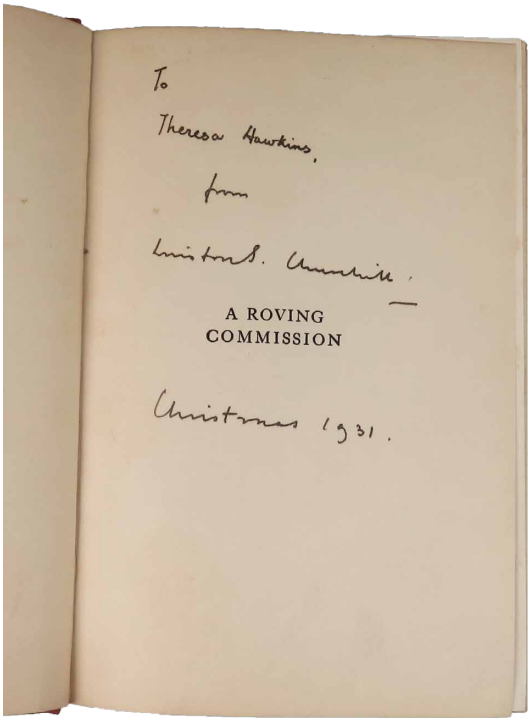
Edition and condition

This first edition, second printing is distinguished from the first printing by only a single character – namely absence of the Scribner's "A" on the title page verso. This second printing's binding, contents, and dust jacket are all otherwise identical to those of the first printing. The second printing, published in December 1930, swiftly followed the first printing of late October 1930.

The U.S. first edition was aesthetically striking, bound in a bright red-orange cloth with vertical and horizontal intersecting blind rules of varying thickness on the front cover and spine, these framing the gilt spine and front cover print. The contents feature untrimmed fore edges. The dust jacket front face and spine feature a bright red-orange center panel, complementing the binding, capped by white ends on the spine and by navy blue panels on the front face. The net aesthetic effect is commandingly bold and arresting – not unsuited

to the author and content. Unfortunately, the red-orange cloth binding proved highly susceptible to fading and soiling and the thin, fragile dust jacket proved highly vulnerable to wear and severe fading, particularly on the jacket spine. Jacketed copies of the U.S. first edition are scarce and respectable unjacketed copies are unusual.

Condition of this inscribed presentation copy is very good plus in a good dust jacket. The binding remains square and tight with sharp corners, the orange-red hue of the cloth still vivid on the spine and covers. The binding shows only light handling and soiling and a hint of toning to extremities, corresponding to small dust jacket losses. The contents are respectably clean, modest spotting mostly confined to the endpapers and prelims, only light and occasional within the text. The sole previous ownership mark is the author's inscription. Differential toning to the endpapers corresponds to the jacket flaps, confirming what the bright binding testifies - that this copy has spent life jacketed. The dust jacket is chipped and worn, but both unclipped, retaining the "\$3.50" front flap price, and uncommonly bright, with the red-orange spine panel only faintly duller than that of the front face. The white spine panels and rear face show overall soiling, as does the navy panel of the lower front face. Closed tears and shallow losses are ubiquitous to the edges, the most significant being a 1.25 inch (3.2 cm) deep loss to the upper rear face corner. None of the losses impacts any print. The dust jacket is protected beneath a clear, removable, archival cover.



The moment

When he arrived in New York on 11 December 1931 to begin a lecture tour, Churchill had already been a Member of Parliament for more than a quarter of a century and held more than half a dozen Cabinet positions. But what lay ahead was arguably more remarkable still – more than thirty additional years in Parliament, as well as two premierships spanning more than eight and a half years at 10 Downing Street. This second act almost ended abruptly in New York.

Churchill's near-corporeal death coincided with his political one. Churchill was at the beginning of his decade of "wilderness years" spent out of power and out of favor, frequently at odds with both his party and prevailing public sentiment. And in 1931 Churchill's financial prospects were as threatened as his political future. 1929 saw the loss of Churchill's ministerial salary as well as devastating financial loss following the stock market crash. This speaking tour was conceived to supplement the revenue Churchill was earning as a prolific writer.

Churchill arrived in New York on 11 December, later than he had intended, having been delayed by parliamentary business. Two days later, on 13 December, he received a dinner invitation from his old friend, Bernard Baruch. Churchill knew Baruch lived on Fifth Avenue and had been there several times, but he did not know the exact address. After he left his cab to search on foot, he was met with the peril of every transatlantic traveler; he looked the wrong way to cross the street – and was consequently struck by a car. Witnesses feared he had been killed.

"It was not until December 21 that Churchill was well enough to leave Lenox Hill Hospital and for two more weeks he had to remain in bed at the Waldorf-Astoria." (Gilbert, Vol. V, p.421) Hence Churchill was convalescing at the Waldorf-Astoria when this book was inscribed. While we have been unable to learn more about the recipient, "Theresa Hawkins", it seems probable to the point of near certainty that Ms. Hawkins was staff at either the Waldorf or the hospital, to whom Churchill felt sufficiently appreciative to make a gift of an inscribed book at Christmas. This was long a custom of Churchill for those who worked for him and held his regard, particularly at Christmas. This second printing of *A Roving Commission* would have notionally been available and procured for the occasion from a New York City bookseller, having been published late in 1930.

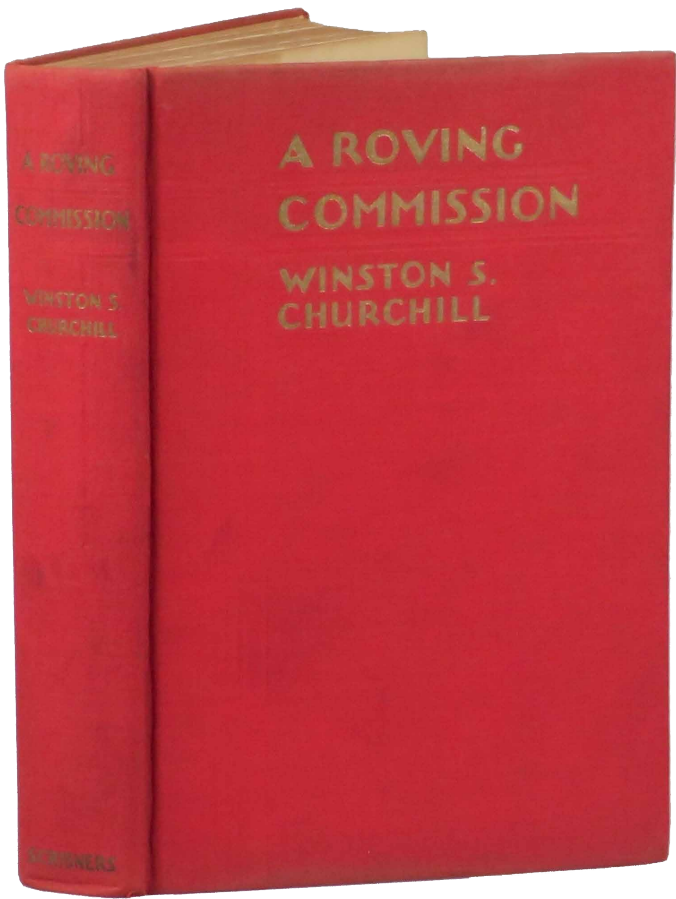
Certainly, given Churchill's convalescence and confinement, this book was not inscribed for a mere sycophant or lecture attendee. Churchill's lectures did not resume until 28 January 1932, following a further three weeks recovery in the Bahamas.



Churchill's resumption of his lecture tour a month after he inscribed this book was not merely a public act of determination. The financial exigencies which had prompted the tour in the first place had not abated; the still-recuperating Churchill "undertook a tour of forty lectures throughout the United States, living all day on my back in a railway compartment, and addressing in the evening large audiences." He later recalled "For two months I was a wreck... On the whole I consider this was the hardest time I have had in my life." (WSC, WWII, Vol. I, p.78)





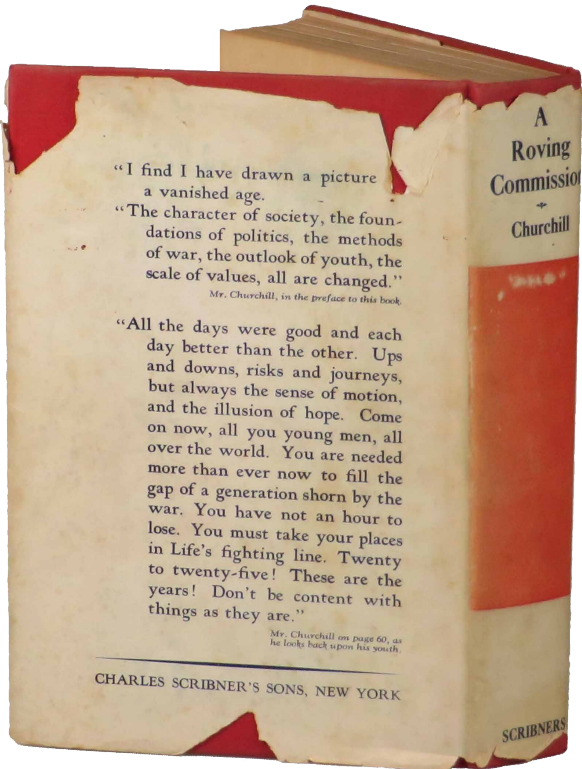


The book

Published in England as *My Early Life*, this is one of the few Churchill first editions for which the U.S. edition bears a different title than the British. Interestingly, *A Roving Commission* was the title proposed by Churchill himself and favored by his American publisher.

*A Roving Commission* covers the years from Churchill's birth in 1874 to his first few years in Parliament. One can hardly ask for more adventurous content. These momentous and formative years for Churchill included his time as an itinerant war correspondent and cavalry officer in theaters ranging from Cuba, to northwest India, to sub-Saharan and southern Africa. Churchill also recounts his capture and escape during the Boer War, which made him a celebrity and helped launch his political career.

Herein Churchill says:  
"Twenty to twenty-five! These are the years!  
Don't be content with things as they are.  
'The earth is yours and the fulness thereof'.  
Enter upon your inheritance, accept your responsibilities....  
Don't take No for an answer. Never submit to failure...  
You will make all kinds of mistakes; but as long as you are  
generous and true,  
and also fierce, you cannot hurt the world or even seriously  
distress her.  
She was made to be wooed and won by youth." (p.60)

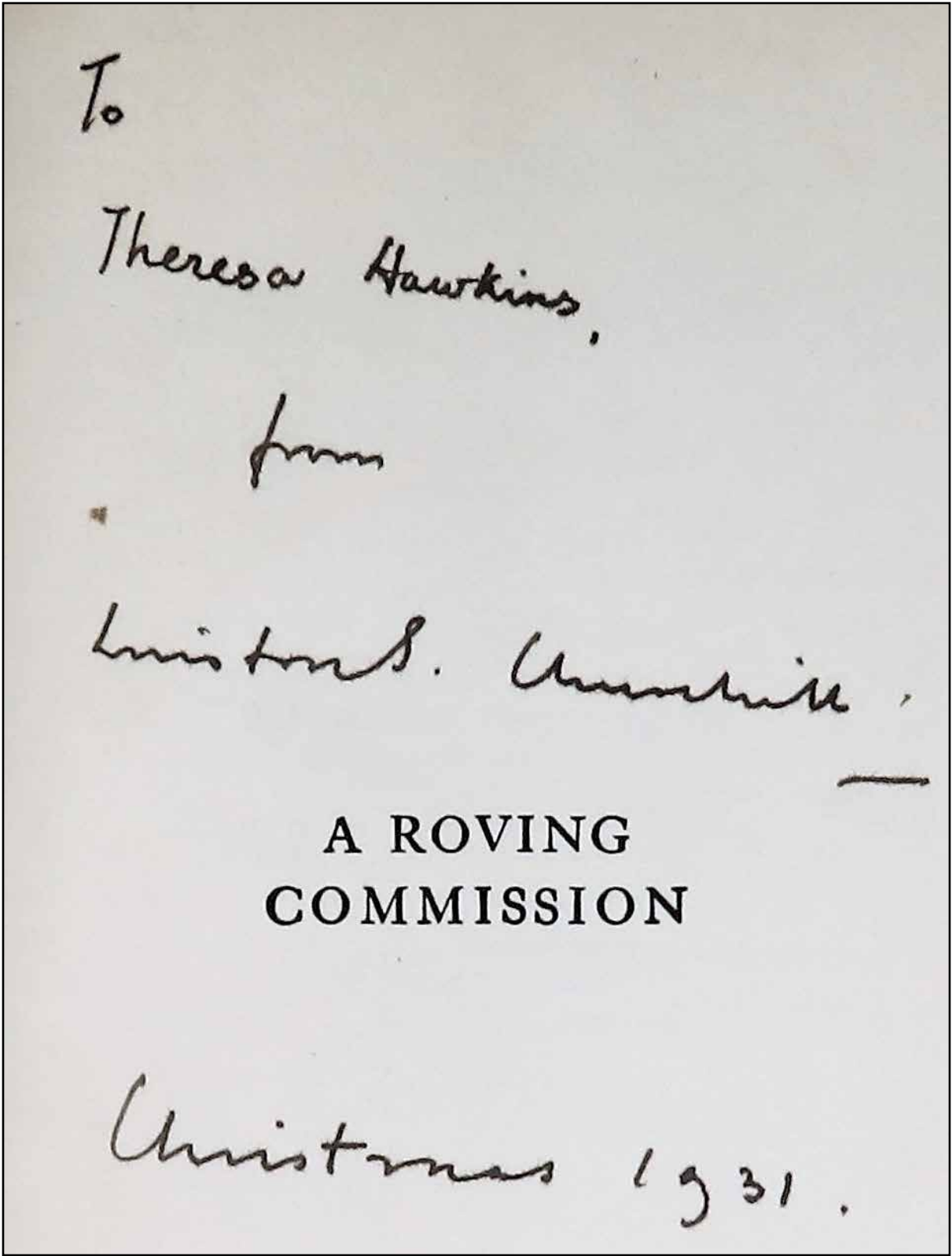


By the end of his own twenty-fifth year, Churchill had been one of the world's highest paid war correspondents, published his first five books, made his first lecture tour of North America, braved and breasted both battlefields and the hustings, and been elected to Parliament, where he would take his first seat only weeks after the end of Queen Victoria's reign.

*A Roving Commission* remains one of the most popular and widely read of all Churchill's books. And for good reason, as the work certainly ranks among the most charming and accessible of his many books. An original 1930 review likened it to a "beaker of Champagne." That effervescent charm endures; a more recent writer called it "a racy, humorous, self-deprecating classic of autobiography." To be sure, Churchill takes some liberties with facts and perhaps unduly lightens or over-simplifies certain events. Nonetheless, the factual experiences of Churchill's early life would compete with any fiction, and any liberties or simplifications are forgivable, in keeping with the wit, pace, and engaging style that characterize the book.

Reference: Cohen A91.2.b, Woods/ICS A37(b.2), Langworth p. 134.  
[CBC #006782]

\$10,000 USD



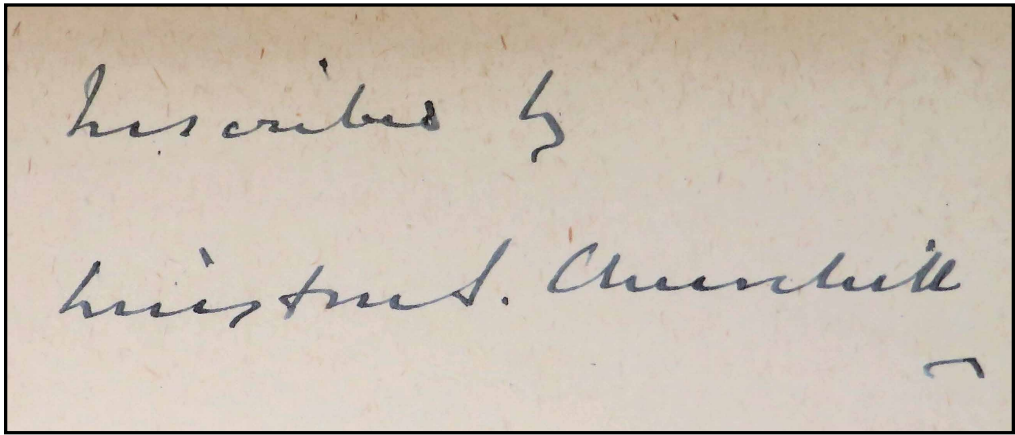


# 9

## The War Speeches

A full set of all seven U.S. first editions inscribed by Winston S. Churchill in the scarcest of the seven volumes, *The Dawn of Liberation*, published just a week after Churchill relinquished his wartime premiership *G. P. Putnam's Sons; Little, Brown, and Company; Simon & Schuster, New York and Boston, 1941-1946*

This full set of all seven U.S. first editions – including *Blood Sweat and Tears*, *The Unrelenting Struggle*, *The End of the Beginning*, *Onwards to Victory*, *The Dawn of Liberation*, *Victory*, and *Secret Session Speeches* – is inscribed by Winston S. Churchill in the scarcest of the seven volumes. Condition alone would render this set noteworthy. Inscribed thus in *The Dawn of Liberation* it is a rare prize.



### The inscription

In black ink at the head of the front free endpaper recto of the fifth volume, Churchill wrote: “Inscribed by | Winston S. Churchill”. This is the only inscribed copy of the U.S. first edition, first printing of *The Dawn of Liberation* that we have encountered.

### Condition

All seven volumes are jacketed first printings of the U.S. first edition. Each of the seven volumes is in near fine or better condition in a very good plus or better dust jacket.

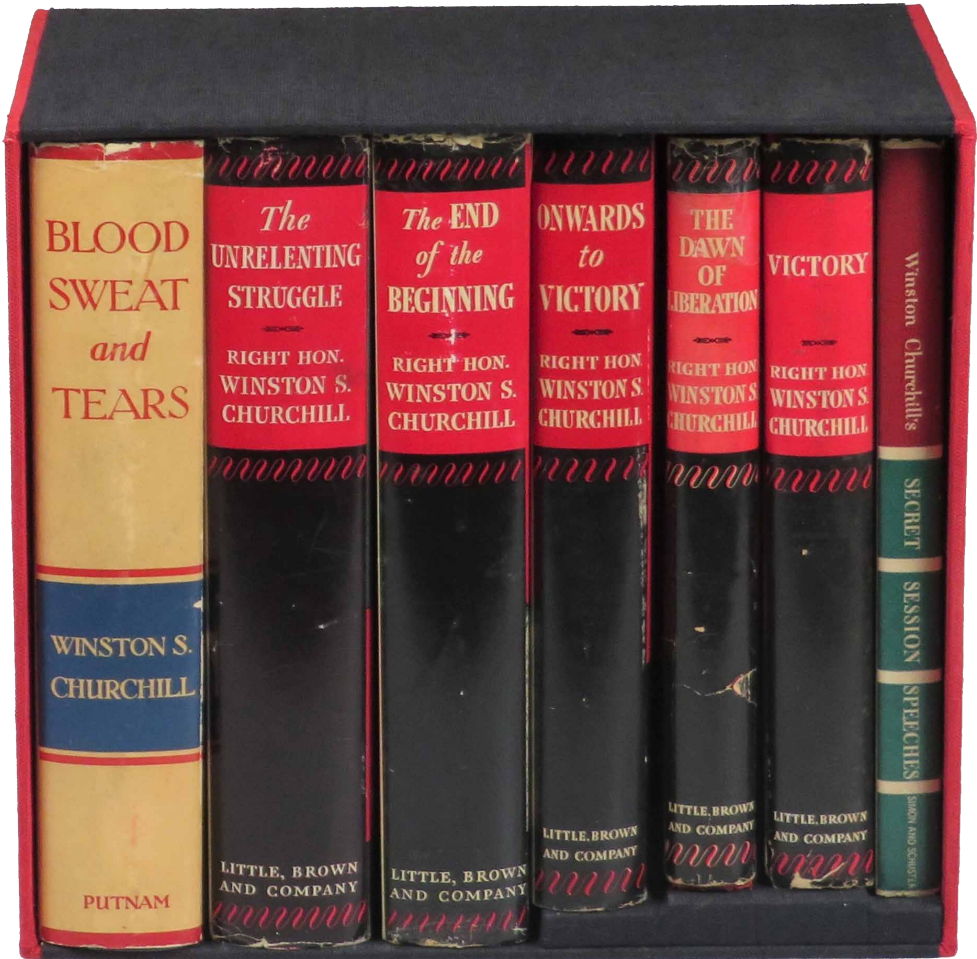
The inscribed volume, *The Dawn of Liberation*, is the U.S. first edition, first printing of the fifth volume of Churchill’s war speeches, publishing Churchill’s speeches made during 1944 - a year when the war turned decidedly in favor of the British and their Allies. Condition of the volume is near fine. The red cloth binding is clean, square, and tight. Minimal shelf wear is evident only in some wrinkling at the spine ends and a bit of wear to the bottom edges. The contents are clean, with no spotting or previous ownership marks apart from the author’s inscription. Modest age-toning affects the endpapers and page edges. The untrimmed fore and bottom edges are otherwise clean, the top edge showing only a little shelf dust. The dust jacket is bright, respectably clean, and unclipped, the original “\$3.50” price intact on the front flap, the red spine panel only very slightly sunned. The chief defects are wear, scuffs, and short closed tears to the extremities, a small tape reinforcement to the upper rear flap fold, and a small, closed, V-shaped tear to the lower spine with some attendant wrinkling.

Condition of the other six first editions comprising this set is no less than near fine plus, all six in very good plus or better dust jackets. All six bindings are bright, clean, and square with virtually no wear. All contents are crisp, clean, bright, and tight. We find no appreciable spotting and no appreciable age-toning, even of the text block edges. The only two volumes with topstain – *Blood, Sweat and Tears* and *Secret Session Speeches* – both retain uniformly strong red topstain. We can report only mild shelf dust to a few of the top edges. Most volumes feel unread.

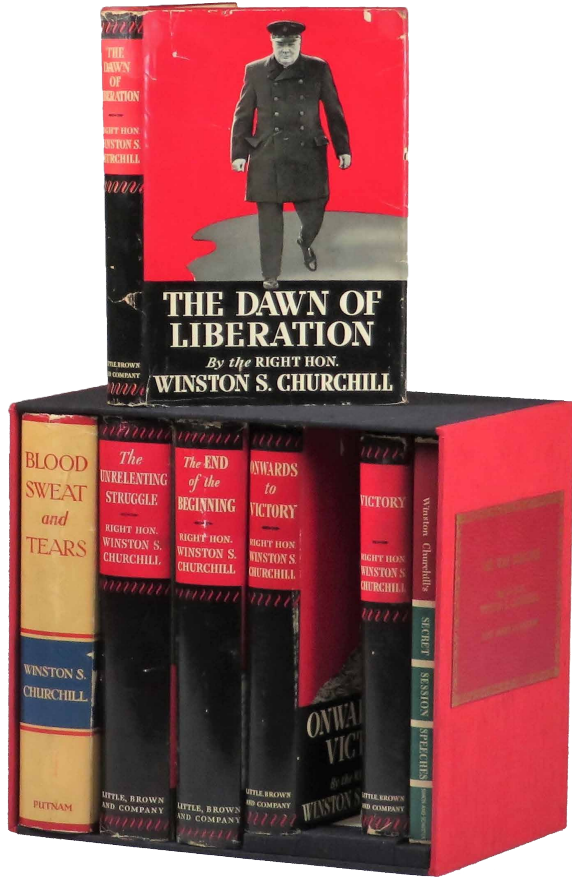
There are three previous ownership inscriptions in the set, all contemporary to publication. The upper front free endpaper verso of *Blood Sweat and Tears* is dated “June 5 – 1942” and charmingly inscribed “To our Dear Son, Frankie, upon his graduation from Morton Highschool, and with Love from your devoted dad and mom.” There is an inked gift inscription on the front free endpaper of *The Unrelenting Struggle* “To Dad from Bob” dated “Christmas 1942” with a further name inked above in a different hand. There is a previous owner inscription and an intriguing note dated “26 August 1943” on the front free endpaper recto of *The End of the Beginning*. The note reads “Concord, Massachusetts. Leave tomorrow to speak in Danville, Virginia...”, concluding with a cryptic reference to “Employers group” and “54 stations”. The only other marks found in the set are a tiny, Palo Alto bookseller’s sticker affixed to the lower rear pastedown of *Victory* and an unexplained, ink-stamped “200 10” on the final free endpaper recto of *Secret Session Speeches*.

All of the dust jackets are impressively bright in appearance and highly complete. The *Blood Sweat and Tears* dust jacket is a true first trade edition (not the look-alike Book-of-the-Month Club edition), with the \$3.00 price still intact on the front flap. This dust jacket is unusually bright and complete, with minor wear confined to the spine ends and the front hinge and only slight soiling to the spine, which retains unfaded blue and red color. The dust jackets for volumes 2-6 proved incredibly susceptible to scuffing and wear, as well as fading of the red spine panels. Here, all of the Little, Brown and Company dust jackets retain bright spine color. Four out of five dust jackets retain the original prices on the front flaps. Only *The Unrelenting Struggle* is neatly price-clipped, but this dust jacket compensates with particularly good spine presentation. Wear for these five jackets is mostly trivial and confined to extremities with the following exceptions: *The Unrelenting Struggle* jacket shows minor evidence of moisture staining at the top front corners of both the front and rear face (with no apparent effect on the book itself); *Victory* shows a roughly .5 inch (1.3 cm) oblong scar on the red background portion of the front face. All seven dust jackets are protected beneath clear, removable, archival covers.

The set is housed in a rigid cloth slipcase with black cloth top, back, and bottom and red cloth sides. The interior of the slipcase is stepped to accommodate the varying heights of the final four volumes and the right side features a red Morocco goatskin label with a decorative gilt border and printed in four lines “THE WAR SPEECHES | THE RT. HON. | WINSTON S. CHURCHILL | FIRST AMERICAN EDITION”. Condition of the slipcase is pristine.





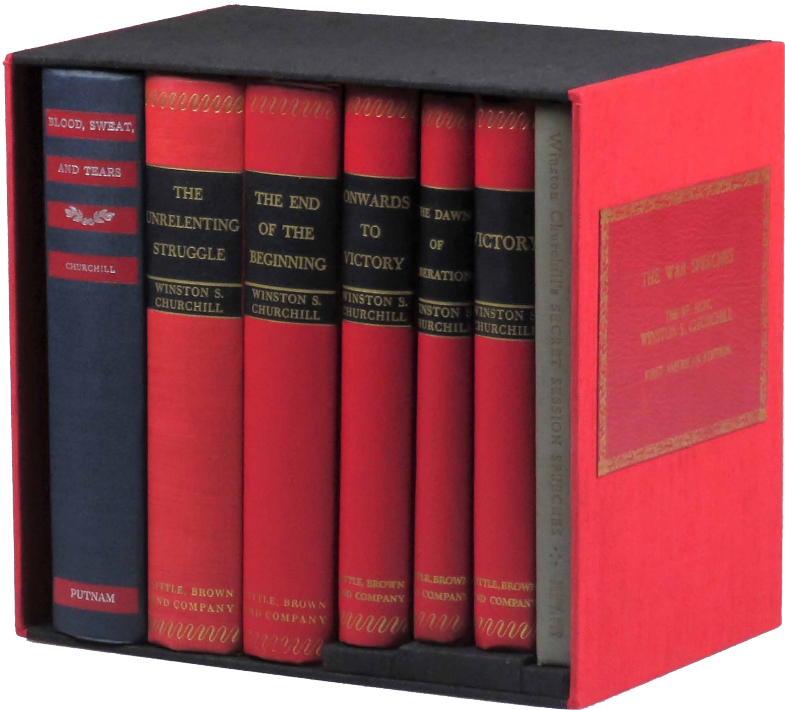


Churchill's war speeches

During his long public life, Winston Churchill played many roles worthy of note - Member of Parliament for more than half a century, soldier and war correspondent, author of scores of books, ardent social reformer, combative cold warrior, Nobel Prize winner, painter. But Churchill's preeminence as a historical figure owes most to his indispensable leadership during the Second World War, when his soaring and defiant oratory sustained his countrymen and inspired the free world. Of Churchill, Edward R. Murrow said: "He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle." When Churchill was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953, it was partly "...for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values."

Between 1941 and 1946, Churchill's war speeches were published in seven individual volumes in both British and U.S. editions. Of note, the first volume, *Blood Sweat and Tears* (published in England as *Into Battle*), is one of the few Churchill first editions for which the U.S. edition bears a different title than the British. The U.S. first editions were generally published in smaller numbers and are considerably scarcer today than their British counterparts, particularly in collector-worthy condition in first printing dust jackets.

The U.S. editions varied significantly across the seven volumes, unlike the British first editions, which were all issued by the same publisher, were universal in height and binding, and featured uniformly styled dust jackets which varied only in hue (apart from the seventh and final volume). The first U.S. volume was published by G.P. Putnam's Sons and bound in the same size and blue cloth as their other 1930s editions of Churchill's works (*Great Contemporaries*, *While England Slept*, and *Step By Step*). Volumes 2-6 were published by



The edition and moment

Apart from being inscribed by the author, the U.S. first edition, first printing of the fifth volume, *The Dawn of Liberation*, is particularly elusive; only 3,500 copies were issued - by a quite significant margin the smallest print run of any first edition, first printing of the seven U.S. (or, for that matter, British) war speeches volumes. Quite likely, the small print run owes to the publisher anticipating reduced demand owing to the fact that this was the first volume published while Churchill was no longer wartime prime minister. This first printing of the U.S. first edition was published on 2 August 1945, just a week after Churchill relinquished his wartime premiership following a Labour Party General Election landslide.

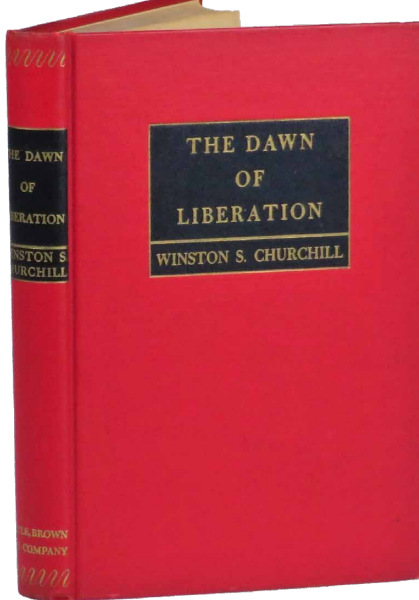
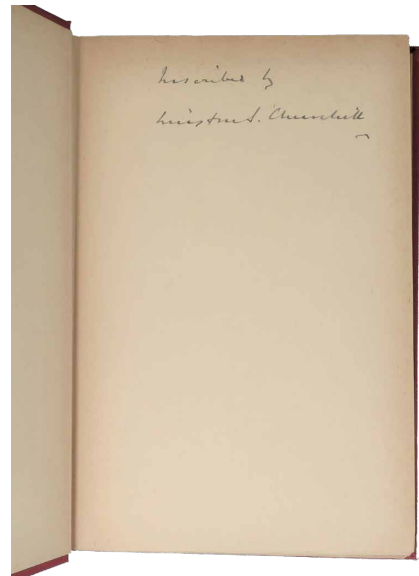
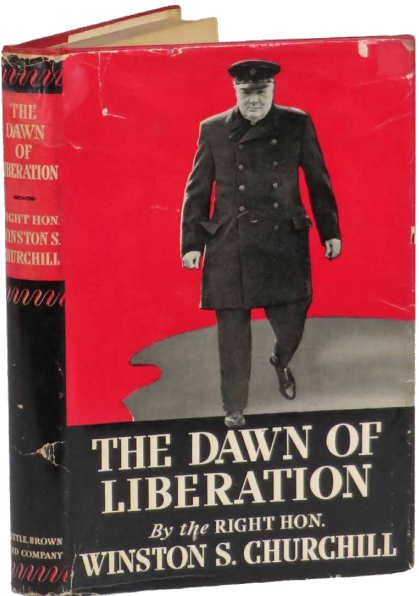
Although the inscription in this volume is undated we can make some notional inferences. Churchill did not again cross the Atlantic until he and his wife sailed on board the Queen Elizabeth for the United States on 9 January 1946. By no means had his orations ceased with his premiership. Indeed, his first speech of the trip was given while still on board to several hundred Canadian troops, also on board and returning home. While Churchill spent much of his American visit in recreation or composition (both writing and painting), there was certainly no shortage of public and press interaction. Churchill spoke on 26 February 1946 at the University of Miami to a crowd of 17,500. But most notably, while in the United States Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech on 5 March in Fulton, Missouri. "The reverberations of the Fulton Speech were to be heard for the rest of Churchill's stay in the United States..." and rendered Churchill a prominently controversial presence in transatlantic media. A number of smaller events and addresses filled the rest of Churchill's trip, including his address to an informal meeting of senior American military officers (at the suggestion of Eisenhower), dinners hosted by Bernard Baruch and Henry Luce, and a reception at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Churchill's visit to the United States did not end until 20 March 1946.

It seems quite plausible that it was during this extended early 1946 sojourn in the United States (minus a few weeks of February 1946 spent in Cuba) that this copy was inscribed. Nothing in the style, still-steady hand, or manifest age of the inscription gainsays this assumption. Further supporting this assumption, *The Dawn of Liberation* was the most recently published volume of Churchill war speeches in America in early 1946, coincident with his visit; the next volume of Churchill's war speeches, *Victory*, was not published until 7 August 1946.

Despite the electoral defeat of his party and his newly minted status as Leader of the Opposition, Churchill's stature was immense and enduring - so much so that a sitting American president personally invited him (in October 1945) to come to America to speak "in my home state". When Churchill gave that speech in Fulton Missouri in March 1946 - as a defeated prime minister and Leader of the Opposition on holiday - President Truman traveled by train with Churchill to the event and personally introduced him. The publisher's apparent pessimism aside, when *The Dawn of Liberation* was published, there seems little question that appetite for, and attention to, Churchill's eloquence remained unabated. Testimony to this enduring regard comes from none other than Churchill's successor as Prime Minister, Labor Party leader Clement Attlee. Just two weeks after publication of this volume Attlee, addressing the House of Commons on 16 August, said of Churchill "In the darkest and most dangerous hour of our history, this nation found... the man who expressed supremely the courage and determination never to yield which animated all the men and women of this country. In undying phrases he crystallized the unspoken feeling of all."

Reference: Cohen A142.3.a, A172.2.a, A183.2.a, A194.2, A214.2.a, A223.2, A227.1; Woods/ICS A66(b.1), A89(b.1), A94(b.1), A101(b.1), A107(b), A112(b), A114(a); Langworth pages 207, 214, 220, 224, 229, 235, 248 [CBC #006113]

\$14,500 USD

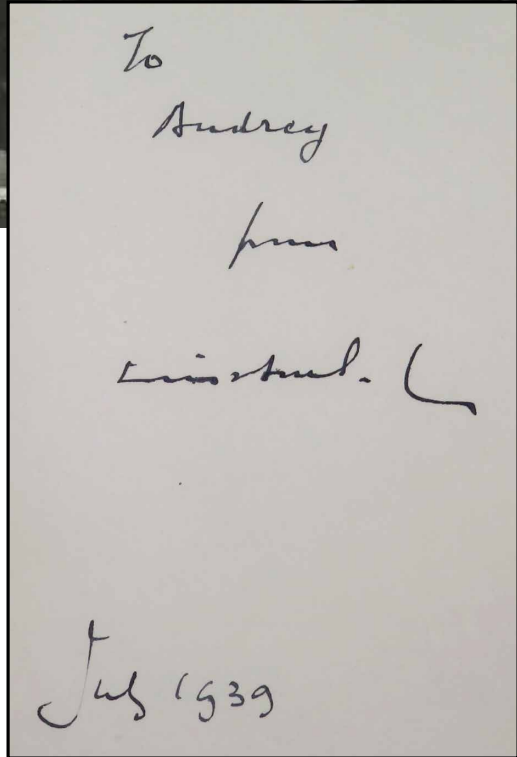
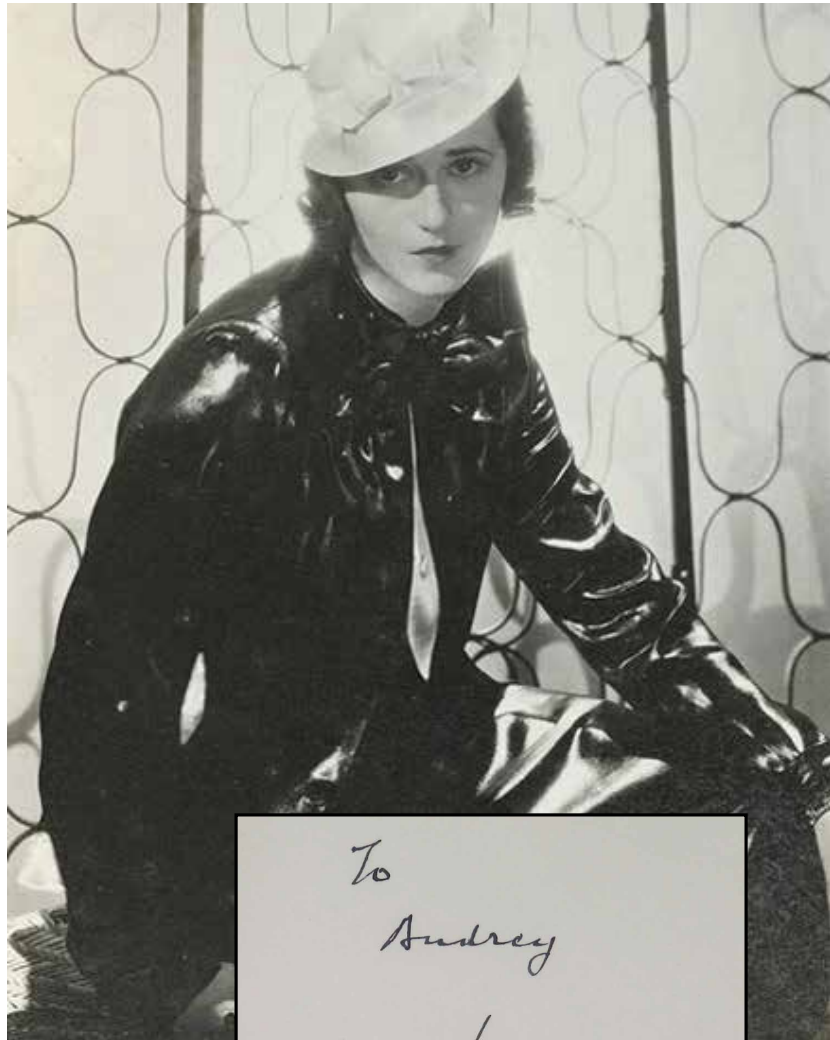




10

Step By Step

Inscribed and dated the month after publication to the celebrated transatlantic socialite Audrey Evelyn Pleydell-Bouverie and finely bound for her in full crushed Morocco Thornton Butterworth Limited, London, 1939



This an inscribed and finely bound, first edition, first printing of an important Churchill title - his last book published before the outbreak of the Second World War. The inscription, inked on five lines on the recto of the blank leaf preceding the half-title, reads "To | Audrey | from | Winston S. C | July 1939". As confirmed by the illustrated plate affixed to the recto of a preliminary blank leaf, this presentation copy was inscribed and bound for the celebrated transatlantic socialite Audrey Evelyn Pleydell-Bouverie (1902-1968).

Condition

The magnificent fine binding was specifically commissioned by Audrey, consonant with the style of other bindings from her library, and was ostensibly bound contemporary to publication, indicated by "1940" gilt-stamped on the lower front pastedown turn-in. The exceptional full tan crushed Morocco binding features raised spine bands with gilt-ruled compartments, Audrey's decorative "A" on the spine, and gilt-hatched spine ends. The covers feature gilt-rule borders and gilt-ruled edges. The contents are bound with all edges gilt, gorgeous double-layered orange, navy and gold silk head and tail bands, silk ribbon marker, and striking marbled endpapers framed by double gilt-ruled turn-ins.

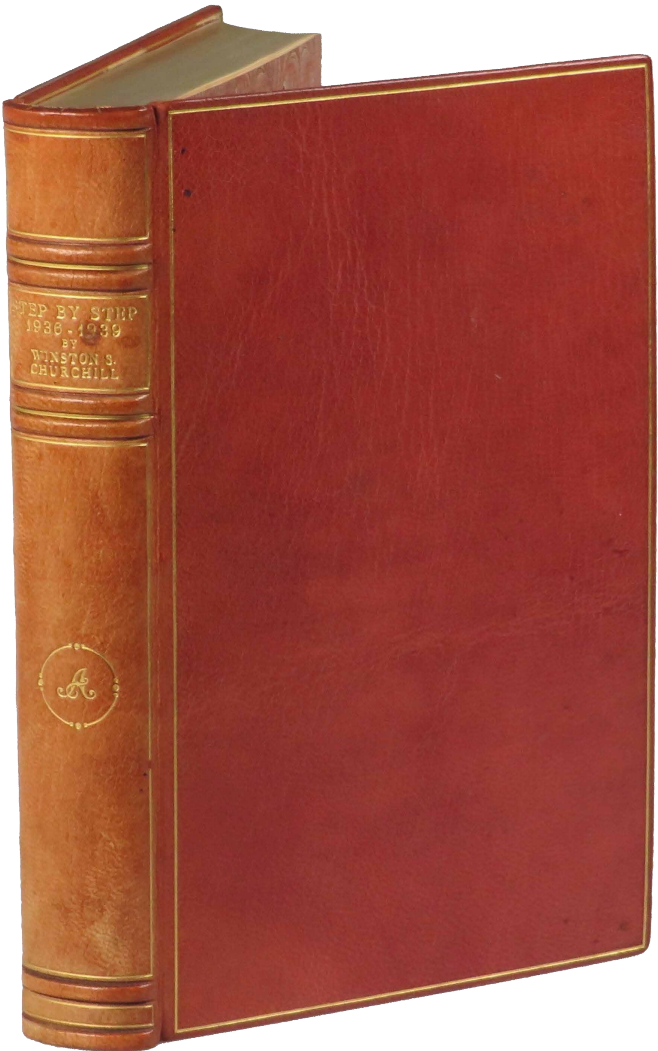
Condition is very good. While the binding shows some spine toning and minor soiling, this does little to decrease the manifest caliber and aesthetic appeal of the binding and there is little appreciable wear. The contents are clean with no soiling or spotting. The gilt edges are so well executed and vividly bright as to make the text block look almost like a solid block of gold, despite a few trivial scuffs.

The association

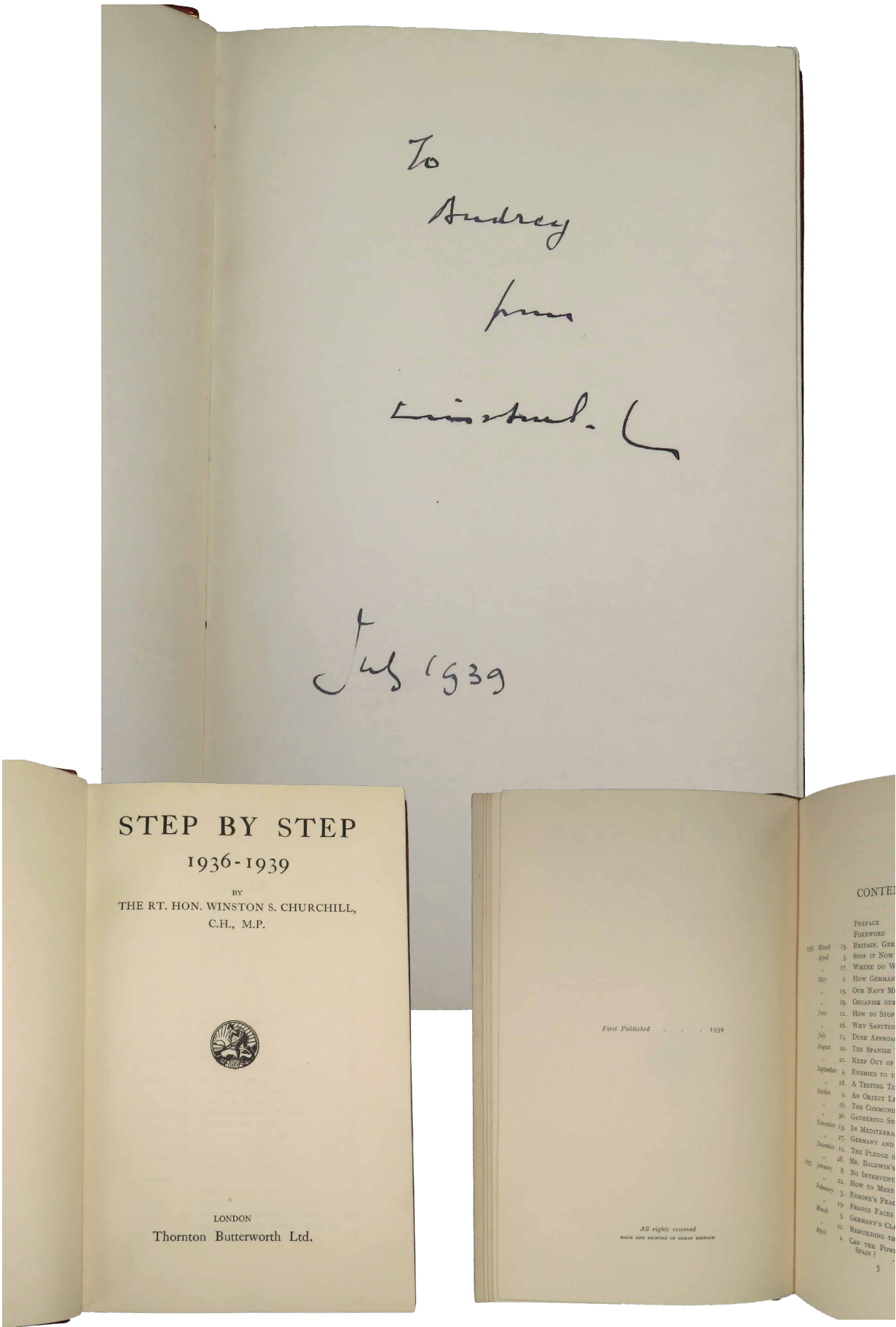
*Step By Step* includes 82 newspaper articles focused on foreign affairs written by Churchill between March 1936 and May 1939 at the end of his "wilderness years". Many of them, of course, contain his warnings and predictions about Nazi Germany. This is perhaps a surprisingly sober work at an increasingly sober time to have inscribed to a socialite, but Audrey was both an associate of the Churchills and a commanding social presence in inter-war London. The "A" on the spine of this binding is the initial of the only name she would retain over the course of three marriages. The birth of Audrey Evelyn James to an Anglo-American lumber and steel magnate seemed predestined for social gossip. Audrey's real father was said by some to be the Liberal politician Sir Edward Grey and Audrey's mother, Evylyn, was rumored to be the illegitimate daughter of King Edward VII.

In 1922, Audrey married war hero Captain Muir Dudley Coats, who died in 1927. In 1930 she married American publisher and "fabulously wealthy" department store heir Marshall Field III. By the time they divorced in 1934, Audrey had played the society doyenne in New York, entertaining diplomats, politicians, artists, and actors, and been featured in Cecil Beaton's *Book of Beauty*. After her divorce from Field, Audrey returned to London, moving in elite social and artistic circles. The Churchills were among the many she entertained and hosted in her homes. Certainly the informality of the inscription – to "Audrey" from "Winston S. C" – indicates a more than cordial familiarity.

In 1938, the year before this book was inscribed, Audrey entered her third and final marriage – to Peter Pleydell-Bouverie, youngest brother of the Earl of Radnor. It would prove her longest union; they divorced in 1946. The grand social life ended sooner. When the Second World War began in 1939, Audrey chose to remain in London, working for the Red Cross, and turned her home into a hostel for volunteers. In addition to an elite social circle, she also shared with Winston Churchill a love of painting. Audrey's later years were colored by her love of art and she loaned a number of her works to the Tate during her lifetime, culminating in an exhibition of her Impressionist paintings there in 1954.







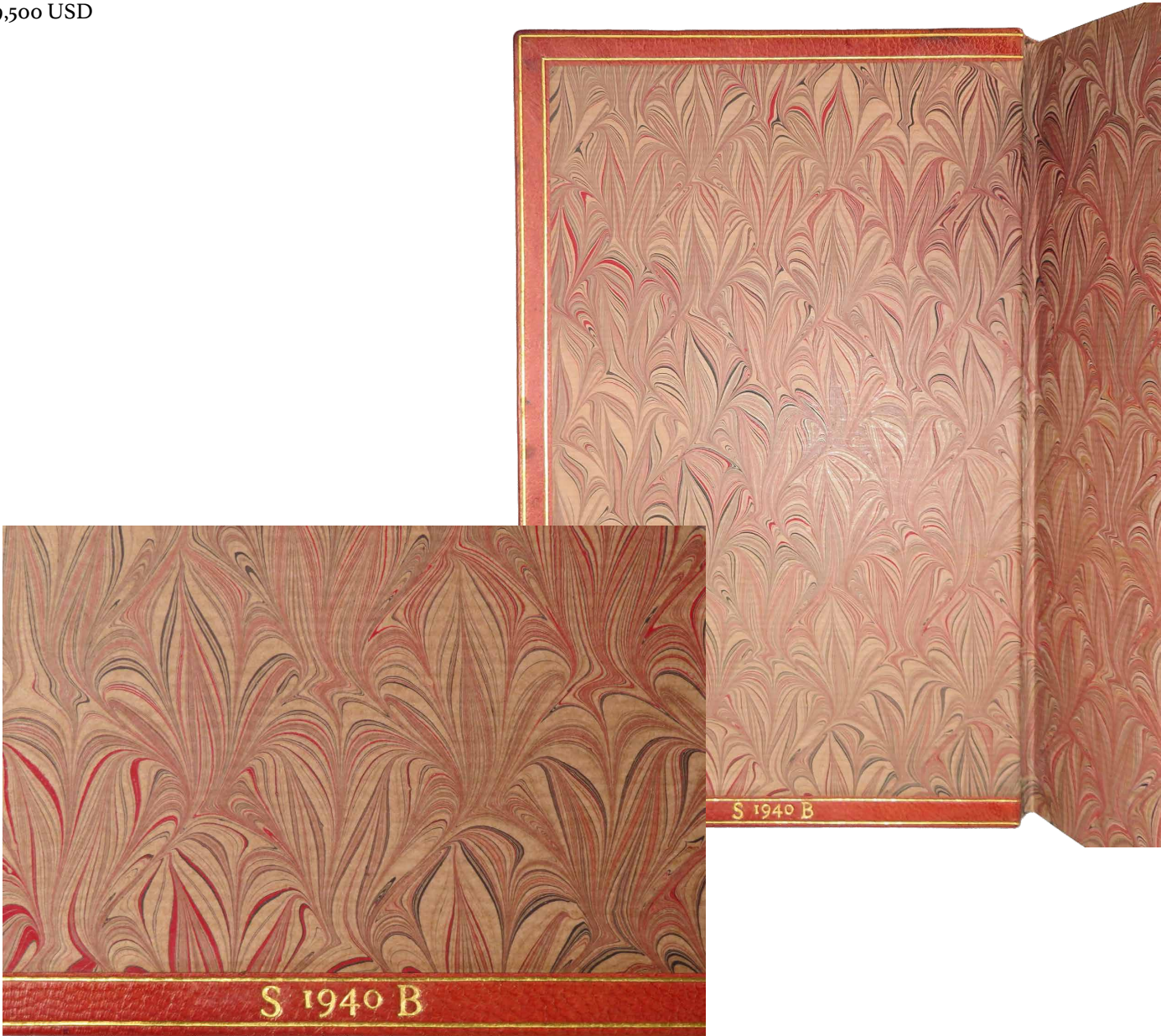
*The edition*

*Step By Step* was published in June 1939. Only a few short months later, on the first day of September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Churchill had spent the better part of a decade politically isolated, frequently at odds with both his party and prevailing public sentiment. Now he was invited to join the War Cabinet, reprising his First World War role as First Lord of the Admiralty.

Less than a year after *Step By Step* was published, in May 1940, Churchill became Prime Minister. As a measure of Churchill's prescience and ultimate vindication, when *Step by Step* was published Labour leader Clement Attlee, a political opponent who would replace Churchill as Prime Minister in late July 1945, wrote to Churchill, "It must be a melancholy satisfaction to you to see how right you were." Others were even more blunt. Sir Desmond Morton, military officer, government official, and appeasement opponent, wrote to Churchill, "Many years on, historians will read this and your speeches in *Arms and the Covenant*. They will wonder but I doubt they will decide what devil of pride, unbelief, selfishness or sheer madness possessed the English people that they did not rise as one man" and "call on you to lead them."

Reference: Cohen AIII.I.a, Woods/ICS A45(a.1), Langworth p.197. [CBC #006712]

\$9,500 USD





11

*“I am sure that your Editor will understand how fully occupied I am...”*

Two typed, signed letters – one from Winston S. Churchill 10 days before he became wartime Prime Minister and one from Churchill’s Private Secretary less than a month into Churchill’s premiership – both regarding a German-Jewish journalist émigré who escaped Hitler’s Germany only to be deported by the British as an “enemy alien”

*Admiralty House, London, 1940*

This compellingly interesting item features two pieces of correspondence from early in the Second World War. The first is a typed, signed letter from then-First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill – just 10 days before he became wartime Prime Minister – to German-Jewish journalist and émigré Alfred J. Fischer declining an appointment to meet. The letter is accompanied by the original Admiralty envelope, franked “30 AP 40”. The second typed letter is signed by Churchill’s Private Secretary, John Peck, dated 8 June 1940, on 10 Downing Street stationery, addressing an apparent request to make inquiries into “the case of Mr. Fischer”. Together, these two pieces of early Second World War correspondence are noteworthy for occurring during Churchill’s ascendance to the premiership, for featuring his signature on his Admiralty stationery in his final days as First Lord, and limning the fraught, perilous fate of German Jews, even those who made it to supposed haven on Allied shores.

The correspondence

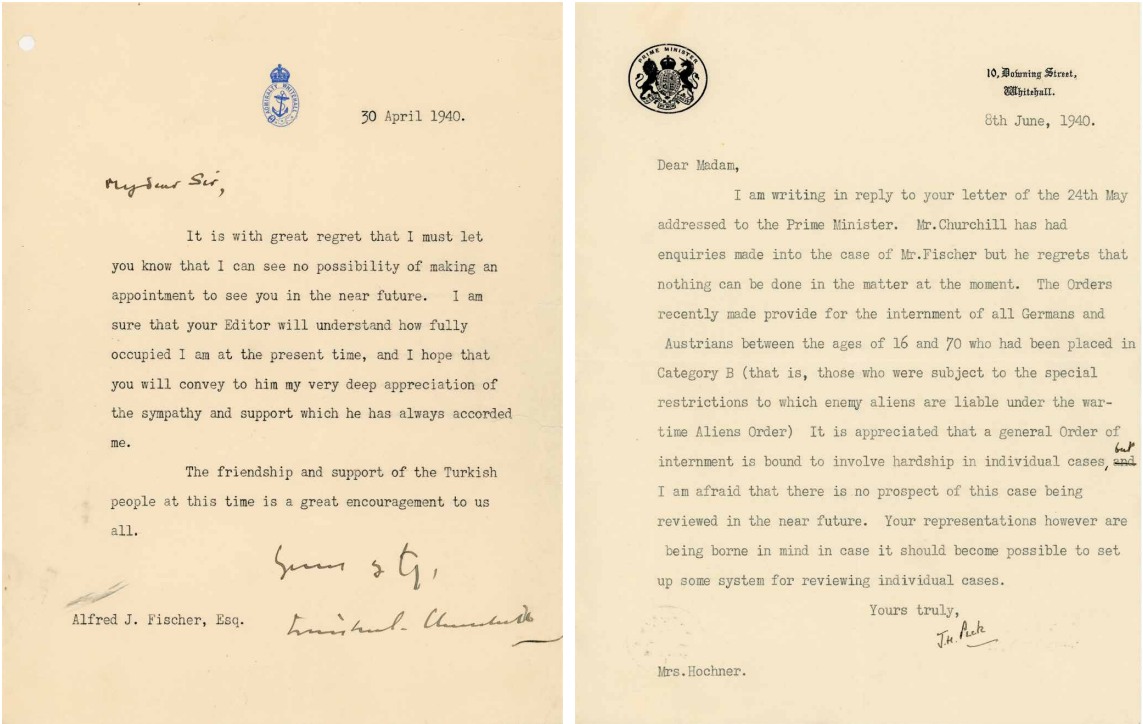
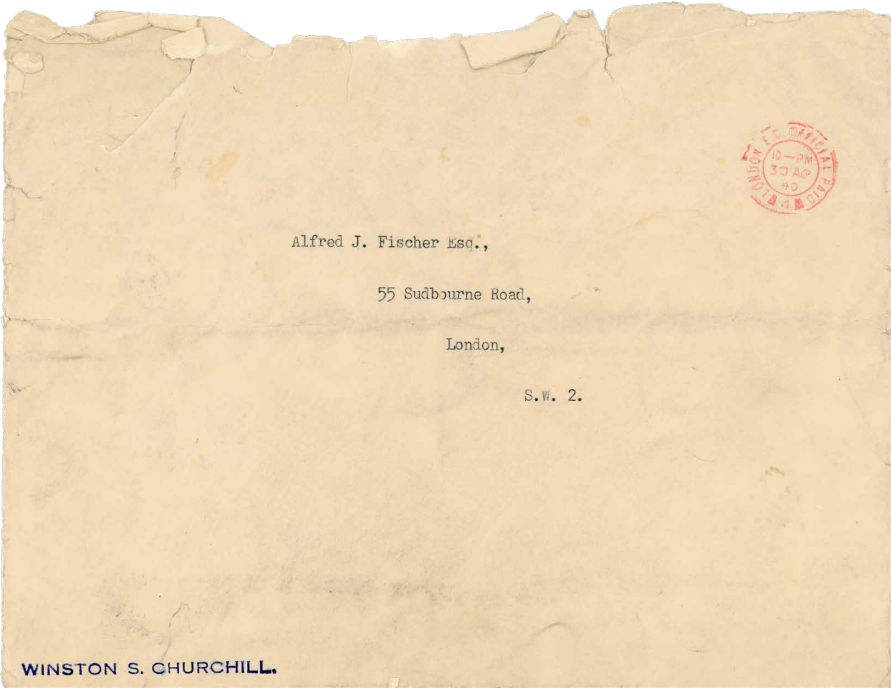
Churchill’s letter is typed on a single sheet of Admiralty stationery, headed with a printed, blue Admiralty device and dated “30 April 1940” at the upper right. The salutation “*My Dear Sir,*” the valediction “*Yours vy ty*” [sic], and the signature “*Winston S. Churchill*” are all in Churchill’s hand. The body of the letter, typed in two paragraphs, reads:

“It is with great regret that I must let you know that I can see no possibility of making an appointment to see you in the near future. I am sure that your Editor will understand how fully occupied I am at the present time, and I hope that you will convey to him my very deep appreciation of the sympathy and support which he has always accorded me.

The friendship and support of the Turkish people at this time is a great encouragement to us all.”

To the left of Churchill’s autograph valediction and signature is typed “Alfred J. Fischer, Esq.”

The letter is accompanied by its original envelope. The large, 10.25 x 8 inch (26 x 20.3 cm) envelope is printed in blue “WINSTON S. CHURCHILL” at the lower left. The recipient’s address is typed in four lines: “Alfred J. Fischer Esq., | 55 Sudbourne Road, | London, | S.W. 2.” At the upper right is the red, circular “LONDON E. C. OFFICIAL PAID” postage stamp timed and dated “10-PM 30 AP 40”. On the verso, the flap of the envelope features the raised, printed “ADMIRALTY WHITEHALL” device and the flap is still sealed with red wax imprinted with an Admiralty signet.



The letter from John Peck is on “10, Downing Street, Whitehall” stationery, printed thus at the upper right, with a “PRIME MINISTER” device at the upper left. All but the autograph signature “*J. H. Peck*” and a single word emendation (“but” replacing “and”) are typed. The letter is dated “8th June, 1940.” and reads:

Dear Madam,

I am wrting in reply to your letter of the 24th May addressed to the Prime Minister. Mr. Churchill has had enquiries made into the case of Mr. Fischer but he regrets that nothing can be done in the matter at the moment. The Orders recently made provide the internment of all Germans between the ages of 16 and 70 who had been placed in Category B (that is, those who were subject to the special restrictions to which enemy aliens are liable under the wartime Aliens Order). It is appreciated that a general Order of internment is bound to involve hardship in individual cases, ~~and~~ *but* [hand emendation] I am afraid that there is no prospect of this case being reviewed in the near future. Your representations however are being borne in mind in case it should become possible to set up some system for reviewing individual cases.

Yours Truly,

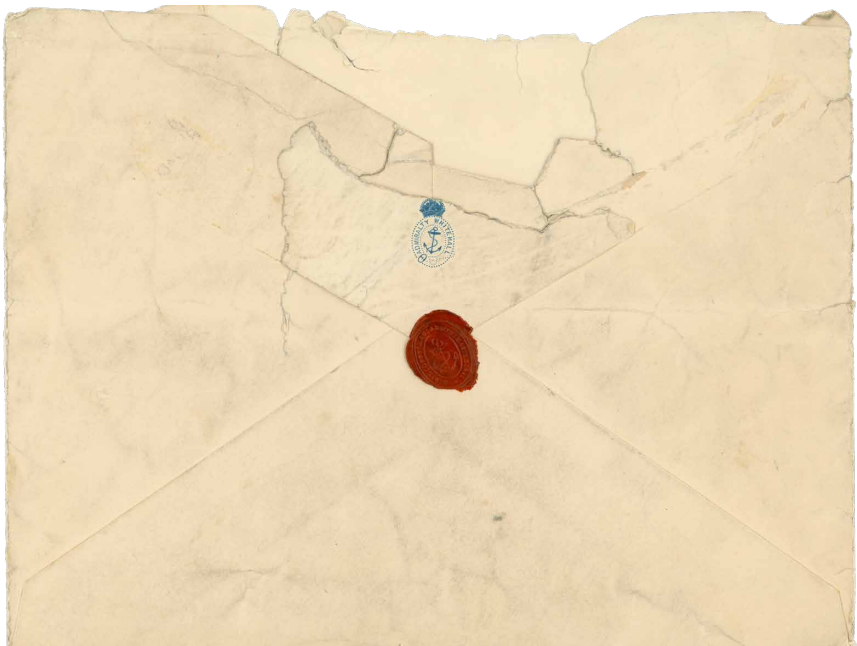
Below and to the left of Peck’s autograph signature “*J. H. Peck*” is typed “Mrs. Hochner.”

Condition

Condition of Churchill’s 30 April 1940 letter to Fischer is good plus. The stationery is complete apart from a single file hole punch at the upper left corner. The type, Churchill’s writing, and the Admiralty device all remain distinct. Nonetheless the paper is lightly soiled overall with short closed tears to a maximum depth of 1 inch (2.54 cm) along the right and bottom edges, some wrinkling along the right edge, and a single, off-center vertical crease to the right of the centered Admiralty device. Condition of the original, franked envelope is also good, a single horizontal crease matching the location of the single vertical crease on the letter it once contained. The envelope is raggedly torn open along the top edge, leaving the original Admiralty signet-stamped wax seal intact on the envelope flap. The envelope is also edge worn and soiled. The wear to Churchill’s letter and accompanying envelope is understandable given the notional deportation odyssey it suffered with Fischer. (See further below.) Moreover, wear and soiling notwithstanding, it is the original franked envelope sent from the First Lord of the Admiralty 10 days before he became Britain’s Prime Minister. Condition of the typed letter on “10, Downing Street” stationery from J. H. Peck is very good plus, the stationery complete with no loss or tears, only lightly soiled, with a single vertical and single horizontal crease, these ostensibly from original posting.

Each letter, as well as the envelope, is housed in its own clear, removable, archival mylar sleeve. The sleeves are housed in a rigid, crimson cloth folder.





Alfred Joachim Fischer

We know little about “Mrs. Hochner” other than her apparent concern and advocacy for Alfred Fisher. But Mr. Fisher’s story is known, at least in part, and is intriguingly interwoven with the general tragedy of allied internment of “enemy aliens” and the compound brutalities visited on German Jews fleeing Hitler’s Reich.

Alfred Joachim Fischer (1909-1992) was a German Jew working as a journalist for a liberal newspaper in Berlin at the end of the republic. Fischer had moved with his parents to Berlin in 1923 and worked as a freelance journalist for liberal newspapers since the late 1920s. In 1933, the year Hitler became German chancellor and the first concentration camps were established, Fischer began an emigration odyssey via Czechoslovakia, Scandinavia, the Balkans, Palestine, and Turkey. In 1939 he “fled at the last minute from Prague” to Great Britain. But his flight from one persecutor only delivered him to another.

When, on 30 April, Churchill wrote to Fischer politely declining a meeting, clearly Fischer was working as a journalist and, of course, Churchill was still First Lord of the Admiralty. Things quickly changed for both men. Ten days later, Churchill became wartime Prime Minister. Fischer’s change of fortune was less salutary.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, there were approximately 80,000 potential “enemy aliens” in Britain. Fearing that spies or those willing to assist Britain’s enemies were among them, and facing the very real prospect of invasion by Nazi Germany, it was decided that all Germans and Austrians over the age of 16 would appear before special tribunals and be categorized into three groups.

- ‘A’ - high security risks, numbering just under 600, who were immediately interned;
- ‘B’ - ‘doubtful cases’, numbering around 6,500, who were supervised and subject to restrictions;
- ‘C’ - ‘no security risk’, numbering around 64,000, who were left at liberty. More than 55,000 of category ‘C’ were recognized as refugees from Nazi oppression. The vast majority of these were Jewish.

By May 1940, with Britain’s security situation continuing to deteriorate and “an outbreak of spy fever and agitation against enemy aliens”, Italians were also rounded up. (BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/timeline/factfiles/nonflash/a6651858.shtml>)

The letter from Churchill to Fischer, seemingly declining an interview request from Fischer, was sent on 30 April 1940, just before Churchill was appointed Prime Minister and the Government decided to inter category B aliens. Unfortunately for Fischer, he was in category B. As Fischer later wrote in his autobiography, “There could be no more loyal friend of the British than me. To be locked up by them as “enemy alien”... contradicted all logic.” (Translated from Fischer, *In der Nahe der Ereignisse*, p.177) Fischer’s complaint does not seem hyperbolic; “That many of the ‘enemy aliens’ were Jewish refugees and therefore hardly likely to be sympathetic to the Nazis was a complication no one bothered to try and unravel...” (BBC)



It’s clear in the second letter, a response to a Mrs. Hochner on 8 June 1940, that Fischer was already interred by that time and an appeal was made on his behalf to release him. The reply from Churchill’s Private Secretary, J. H. Peck, states “Mr. Churchill has had enquiries made into the case of Mr. Fischer but he regrets that nothing can be done in the matter at the moment... It is appreciated that a general Order of internment is bound to involve hardship in individual cases, but I’m afraid there is no prospect of this case being reviewed in the near future.” As it happens, there would be impetus to reverse the order to inter those of Category B much sooner than anticipated. Unfortunately, that impetus was tragedy and conspicuous injustice.

More than 7,000 internees were deported, a majority to Canada, some to Australia. One of the transport vessels, the SS *Arandora Star*, en route to Canada, was torpedoed off the Irish coast by a German U-boat on 2 July 1940. Most of 714 lives lost were those of internees. The sinking of the *Arandora Star* was a particularly brutal fate for the internees aboard, who had, often with great difficulty and hazard, escaped the Nazis, only to be again placed at risk by the British and consequently killed by the Germans after all.

Fischer was among those deported to Australia on another ship, the HMT *Dunera*, just a week after the sinking of the *Arandora Star*. As he later recalled, “I was only allowed to take a few items with me, including a personal letter from Winston Churchill.” Ostensibly that was this same letter. (Translated from Fischer, *In der Nahe der Ereignisse*, p.177)

The 57-day voyage was not only under threat by German U-boats; detainees faced regular beatings and robbery at the hands of British soldiers and officers on board. When the *Dunera* finally docked in Sydney, the Australian medical officer who first boarded the ship was appalled at the condition of the detainees, so much so that he had the commanding officer court-marshalled. The sinking of the *Arandora Star* and the treatment of detainees on the *Dunera* catalyzed sympathy towards aliens and vocal objections in Parliament ensued, so that those listed as Category B and C were slowly released.

Fischer returned to London from Australia the following year and worked for “various English newspapers. After the end of the war he reported as a traveling correspondent for well-known newspapers and broadcasters from all over the world.” Fischer returned to Berlin in 1959. (Fischer, *In der Nahe der Ereignisse*)





Winston S. Churchill in late April 1940

During the 1930s, Churchill spent nearly a decade out of power and out of favor, warning against the growing Nazi threat and often at odds with both his Party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. As the Second World War approached, he passed into his sixties with his own future as uncertain as that of his nation. But in September 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War, Churchill was asked to join the wartime Cabinet, reprising the First Lord of the Admiralty role he had played in the First World War. Eight months later, amid the manifest failure of Chamberlain’s leadership, Churchill became wartime Prime Minister on 10 May 1940 – just 10 days after he signed this letter to Alfred J. Fischer. Churchill later recalled: “I felt as if I were walking with destiny, and that all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and for this trial.” (Gilbert, *Vol I*, 526-27)

It was to be perhaps even more of a trial than Churchill anticipated. When Churchill became Prime Minister, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. Churchill’s first months in office saw, among other near-calamities, the Battle of the Atlantic, the fall of France, evacuation at Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain. One understands why Churchill was not making time to meet with a journalist on 30 April 1940. By contrast, Peck’s 8 June 1940 reply to “Mrs. Hochner” about Alfred Fischer’s apparent internment may seem a bit more harshly dismissive to a modern reader. That the Jewish Fischer had escaped the genocidal scourge of the Nazis only to be detained by the British was both a cruelty and an injustice – neither of which are character flaws commonly attributed to Churchill.

But Churchill had been Prime Minister for less than a month when Peck replied to Mrs. Hochner about the unfortunate Mr. Fischer conveying the Prime Minister’s “regrets that nothing can be done in the matter at the moment.” In the 29 days that Churchill had been Prime Minister, Nazi Germany had invaded France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Only an incredible mobilization of British civilians helped effect a near-miraculous evacuation of 224,000 British and 111,000 French soldiers from Dunkirk. Incredibly, this was more than twice as many soldiers than the Allies would land on Normandy beaches in the world’s greatest amphibious assault four long years later. Four days before Peck signed his letter, on 4 June 1940 in the House of Commons, Churchill gave one of his most defining – and defiant – wartime speeches. Churchill told Parliament “We shall never surrender” but also soberly cautioned that “Wars are not won by evacuations”. Two days after Peck’s letter, Norway surrendered to Germany, six days after Peck’s letter the Germans entered Paris. A month after Peck’s letter, the relentless German bombing that would be known as the Battle of Britain began. Hitler intended the Battle of Britain as the preparatory effort to gain air superiority prior to a cross-channel invasion, and for a long time to come the British faced the very real prospect of German jackboots on English soil.

As he had prophetically said in his letter of 30 April when he was still only First Lord of the Admiralty, Churchill was “fully occupied”. His premiership would be as hard and fraught as his ascent to it. However callous it seemed, Britain’s prime minister faced exigencies more dire than the fate of a German-Jewish émigré caught in the deeply bitter irony of Allied internment. As John Howard Peck noted years later, “It is difficult to describe or imagine the loneliness of someone in Winston Churchill’s position with the burden of responsibility that he carried and the knowledge that however much he shared or delegated it, the ultimate decisions were his.” (Peck, *Dublin from Downing Street*, p.68) Peck was certainly in a position to observe Churchill with some authority.



John Howard Peck

One of Churchill’s team of four private secretaries throughout the Second World War, Sir John Howard Peck’s (1913-1995) tenure with Churchill began in April 1940, while Churchill was still First Lord of the Admiralty. “Peck... had been working since the outbreak of war as Chatfield’s Private Secretary in the Office of the Minister for the Coordination of Defence. Now his minister was gone, and Churchill had taken over Chatfield’s responsibilities at the Military Co-ordination Committee. It was to help with these responsibilities that Peck was summoned to the Admiralty, to be co-opted into Churchill’s Private Secretariat.” (Gilbert, *Vol. VI*, p.216)

As if to underscore the veracity of Churchill’s own contention in his letter to Fischer about how “fully occupied” he was, Churchill did not even have time to properly meet the new member of his staff. On 9 April 1940, after waiting all morning to be admitted to an introductory session with Churchill, Peck was instructed that “the best thing would be to take him some papers and act as if I had been working for him for months.” So Peck did. He later recalled Churchill simply said “So you’ve come to work for me.” Peck replied “Yes, please, Sir” and thereafter concluded “I was in.” (Peck, *Dublin from Downing Street*, pp.65-6) “Peck was to remain a member of Churchill’s Private Office for the rest of the war.” (Gilbert, *Vol. VI*, p.220) Peck became the only one of Churchill’s wartime Private Secretaries to serve for the entirety of Churchill’s wartime premiership.

Peck more than earned his keep. On one occasion, he “saved Downing Street by putting out an incendiary bomb that had entered diagonally through an upper window and ignited some bedding.” Peck was also a Downing Street air-raid warden, and on occasion had the unenviable task of asserting his authority to order Churchill into the shelter at No. 10, telling his grumbling Prime Minister “I’m sorry Sir, I’m in command here. You really must go, too.” (Roberts, *Walking with Destiny*, p.605)

Peck went on to become an accomplished British diplomat, rising to become the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe from 1959-1962, Ambassador to Senegal and Mauritius from 1962-1966, and Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office from 1966-1970. Peck’s final posting was as Ambassador to Ireland from 1970-1973. Peck served at a particularly difficult time in Anglo-Irish relations, including the “Bloody Sunday” shooting of unarmed civilians by British troops and the subsequent burning of the British embassy in Dublin. A sign of Peck’s mutual affinity with Ireland, he settled in Dublin after retirement at the end of his ambassadorship. (Hourican, *Dictionary of Irish Biography*)

[CBC #006030]

\$9,500 USD





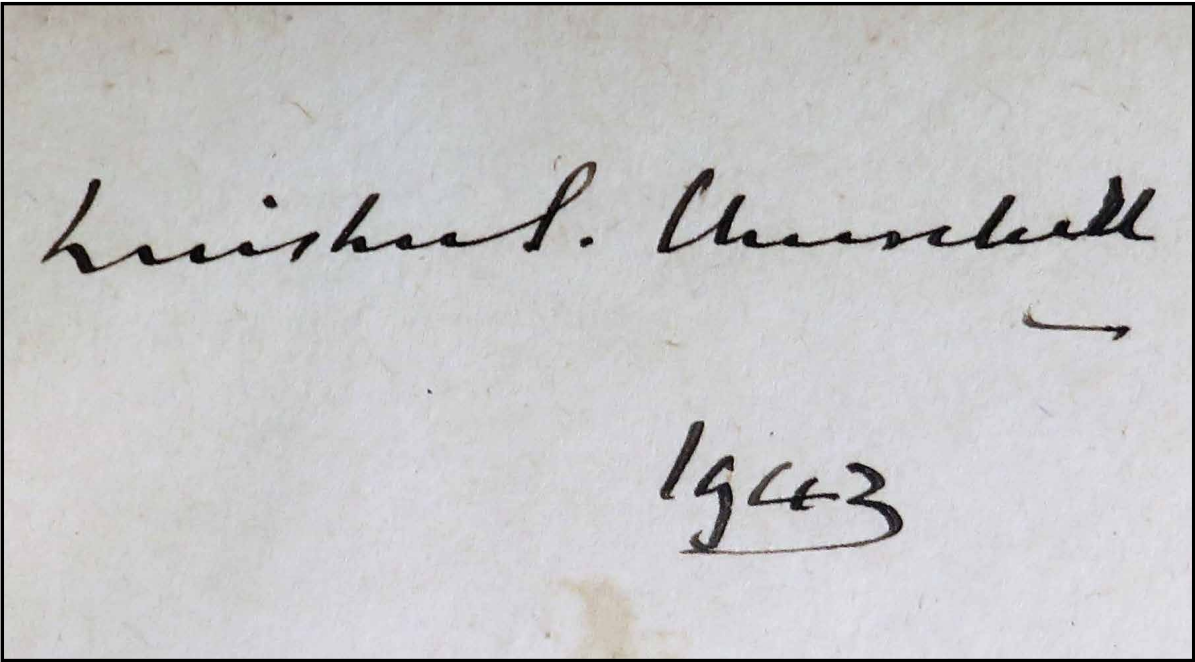
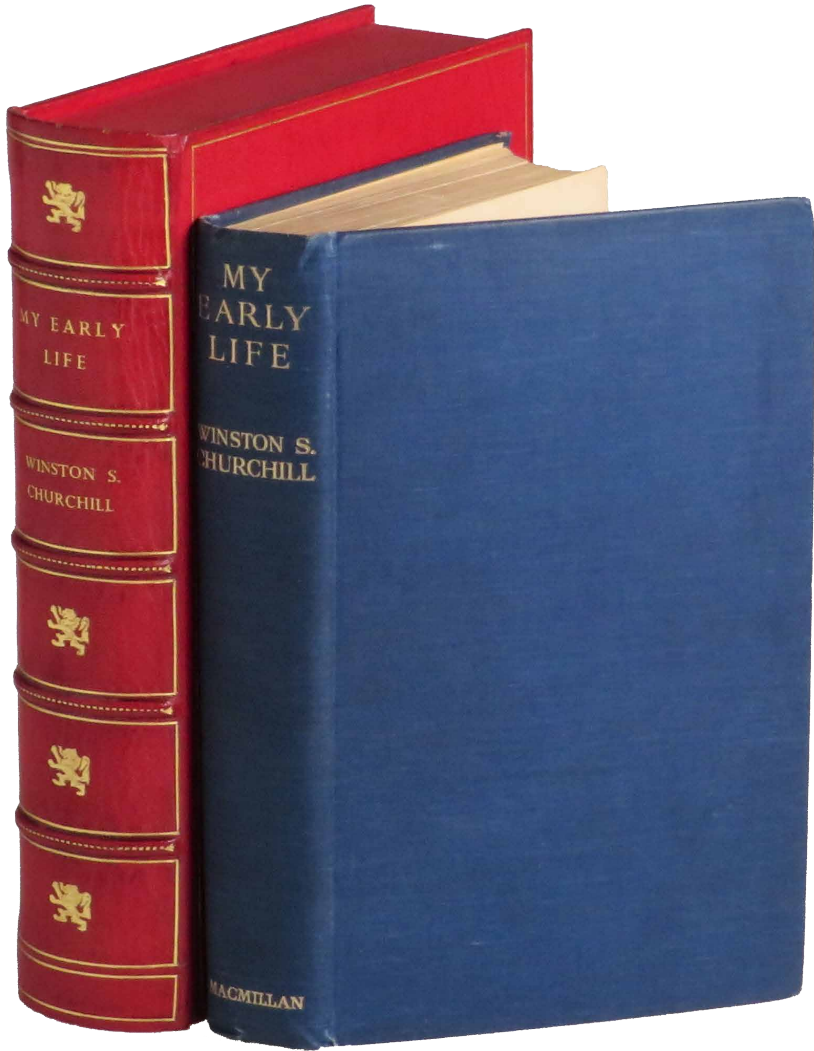
12

**My Early Life: A Roving Commission**  
A wartime reprint signed and dated by Churchill in 1943  
during his wartime premiership  
*Macmillan & Co, Ltd., London, 1943*

This is a Second World War reprint of British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill’s autobiography of his early life, signed and dated by him. The signature, inked by Churchill in black in two lines on the front free endpaper recto, reads: “Winston S. Churchill | 1943”.

Condition

Condition is very good. The blue cloth binding is square, tight, bright, and clean. We note some shelf wear to extremities – a little rounding of corners and wrinkling at spine ends – as well as some trivial scuffing to the rear cover. The contents are quite clean for a wartime reprint, bright with a minimal amount of spotting that appears confined to the lower right of the title page and the page edges. We find no previous ownership marks. The endpapers show a little transfer browning from the pastedown glue and the top edges show incidental shelf dust. The volume is protected within a quite striking and well-executed full red Morocco goatskin Solander case. The case features a rounded and hubbed spine with gilt decorated raised spine bands, and gilt-framed compartments, each non-printed compartment occupied by a gilt lion rampant. The spine ends are gilt hatched and the covers feature gilt-ruled borders and gilt tooled edges, with Churchill’s facsimile signature in gilt on the front cover. The interior is suede-lined. Condition of the Solander case is pristine.



Edition

Churchill’s extremely popular autobiography, covering the years from his birth in 1874 to his first few years in Parliament, was first published in 1930 by Thornton Butterworth Limited. This was at the beginning of a decade the author spent out of power and out of favor, frequently at odds with both his Government and prevailing public sentiment. But in 1940 Churchill became wartime Prime Minister. And also in 1940, Thornton Butterworth went under and a different publisher, Macmillan, acquired the rights to several of Churchill’s books. Hence this 1941 reprint by Macmillan using the original first edition plates.

This Macmillan issue was a simple but handsome production, in dark blue cloth with gilt spine print. There were ultimately four Macmillan printings of *My Early Life* between 1941 and 1944. This signed and dated copy is the first printing. The first printing is aesthetically superior to the three that followed, being printed on thicker paper and thus being a significantly more substantial book than the subsequent printings.

During his wartime premiership, Churchill was known to gift signed copies of contemporary editions of his books in the publisher’s original bindings, most typically to staff. We have encountered – and offered – several signed or inscribed wartime Macmillan reprints over the years. Owing to the enduring popularity of the work, signed or inscribed copies of *My Early Life* are generally the most highly desired. It is, of course, particularly affecting to have a copy of Churchill’s ruminations on his youth signed while he was leading his nation during its time of supreme trial.



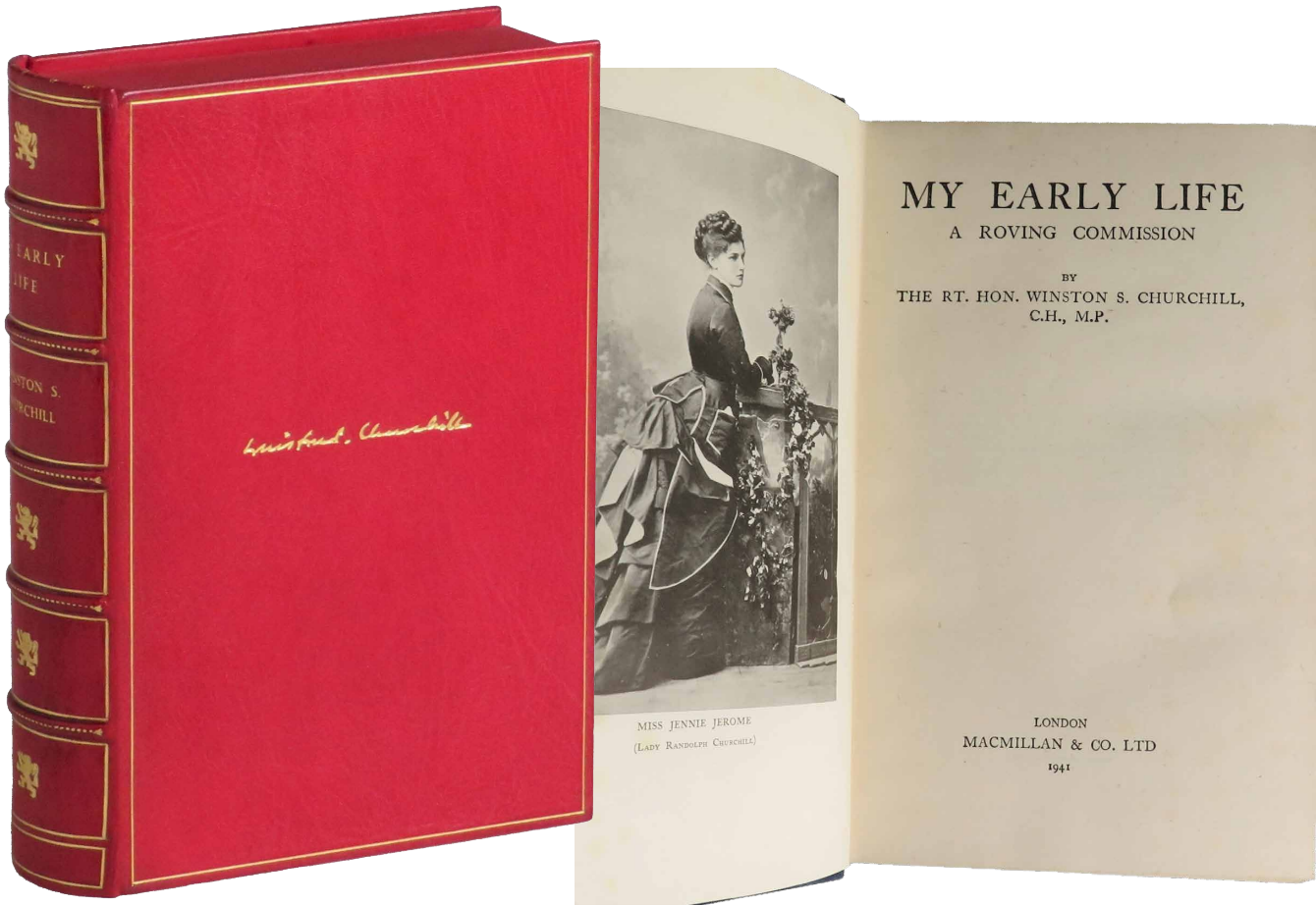
The moment

1943 was fraught with momentous events of weighty symbolic import. However, the year is perhaps best symbolized for Churchill by a comparatively obscure event – the restoration and unveiling of his portrait at the National Liberal Club in July 1943, nearly thirty years after it was painted. Churchill’s image, painted while he was still First Lord of the Admiralty during the First World War, had been removed and “banished to the cellars” during various periods of political disfavor for Churchill. When he became Prime Minister in May 1940, his portrait was briefly restored to prominent display - only to be removed again when it was damaged by German bombs during the Blitz. When the portrait was finally repaired and re-hung, Churchill remarked that he and his portrait had both “suffered alike the vicissitudes of time and the violence of the enemy.” (*Derby Daily Telegraph*, 23 July 1943) Both suffered and persevered, which was an apt appraisal of 1943.

1942 had been a low point of the war, full of setbacks and disappointments across the globe for the British. But by the end of 1942, Churchill was able to sum up the state of the war and set expectations thus: “Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” (Speech of 10 November 1942).

In January 1943 Churchill conferred with Roosevelt at Casablanca and, shortly thereafter, saw the Germans surrender at Stalingrad. By May Churchill was able to declare “One continent redeemed!” with Allied victory in North Africa. The Allies began the liberation of Europe with the invasion of Sicily and the Italian peninsula and, late in the year, Churchill met with Roosevelt and Stalin at Tehran.

In May of 1943, Churchill told the U.S. Congress “I do not intend to be responsible for any suggestion that the war is won or will soon be over.” Indeed, Churchill invoked the grim memory of the prolonged outcome of the U.S. Civil War to dramatize his point. “No one after Gettysburg doubted which way the dread balance of war would incline. Yet far more blood was shed after the Union victory at Gettysburg than in all the fighting which went before.” So it would be for the Allies. Yet even so, Britain’s fight was evolving into one for victory rather than survival. And despite the battles and bloodshed that still lay ahead, 1943 saw Churchill begin to experience some of the problems attendant to success, including divisions among the allies, about both the conduct of the war and the nature of postwar settlement.



The work

In 1943, the origins and trajectory of Churchill’s newly restored portrait in the National Liberal Club made a good story, but the origins and trajectory of the man himself were – and remain - even more compelling. And there has never been a better telling than Churchill’s own words.

*My Early Life* covers the years from Churchill’s birth in 1874 to his first few years in Parliament. One can hardly ask for more adventurous content. These momentous and formative years for Churchill included his time as an itinerant war correspondent and cavalry officer in theaters ranging from Cuba, to northwest India, to sub-Saharan and southern Africa. Churchill also recounts his capture and escape during the Boer War, which made him a celebrity and helped launch his political career.

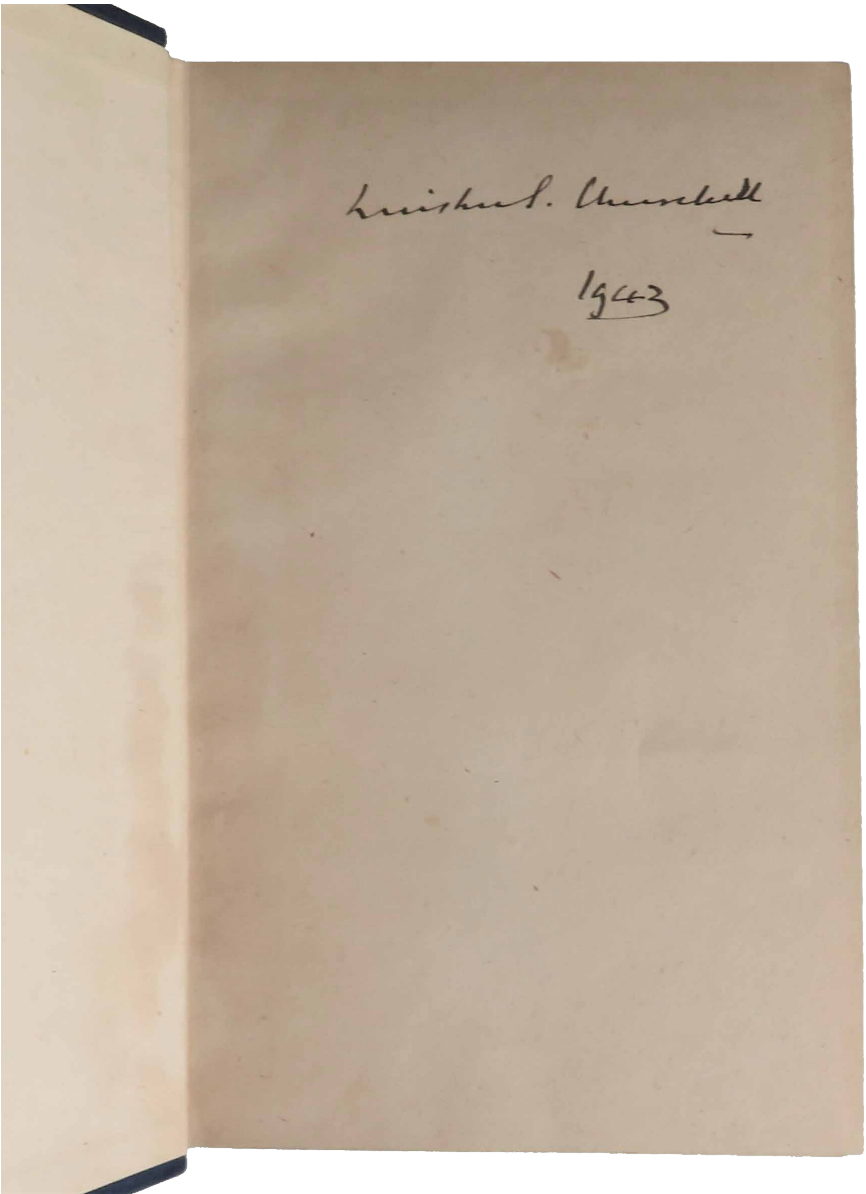
Herein Churchill says:  
“Twenty to twenty-five! These are the years!  
Don’t be content with things as they are.  
‘The earth is yours and the fulness thereof’.  
Enter upon your inheritance, accept your responsibilities....  
Don’t take No for an answer. Never submit to failure...  
You will make all kinds of mistakes; but as long as you are generous and true,  
and also fierce, you cannot hurt the world or even seriously distress her.  
She was made to be wooed and won by youth.” (p.60)

By the end of his own twenty-fifth year, Churchill had been one of the world’s highest paid war correspondents, published his first five books, made his first lecture tour of North America, braved and breasted both battlefields and the hustings, and been elected to Parliament, where he would take his first seat only weeks after the end of Queen Victoria’s reign.

*My Early Life* remains one of the most popular and widely read of all Churchill’s books. An original 1930 review likened it to a “beaker of Champagne.” That effervescent charm endures; a more recent writer called it “a racy, humorous, self-deprecating classic of autobiography.” To be sure, Churchill takes some liberties with facts and perhaps unduly lightens or over-simplifies certain events. Nonetheless, the factual experiences of Churchill’s early life compete with any fiction, and any liberties taken are forgivable, in keeping with the wit, pace, and engaging style that characterizes the book.

Reference: Cohen A91.6.a, Woods/ICS A37(d.1), Langworth p.139 [CBC #006704]

\$10,500 USD





# 13

## “My dear Bill...”

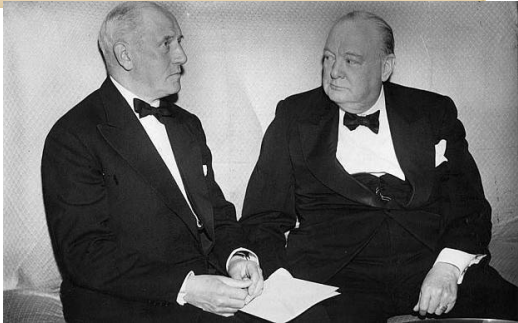
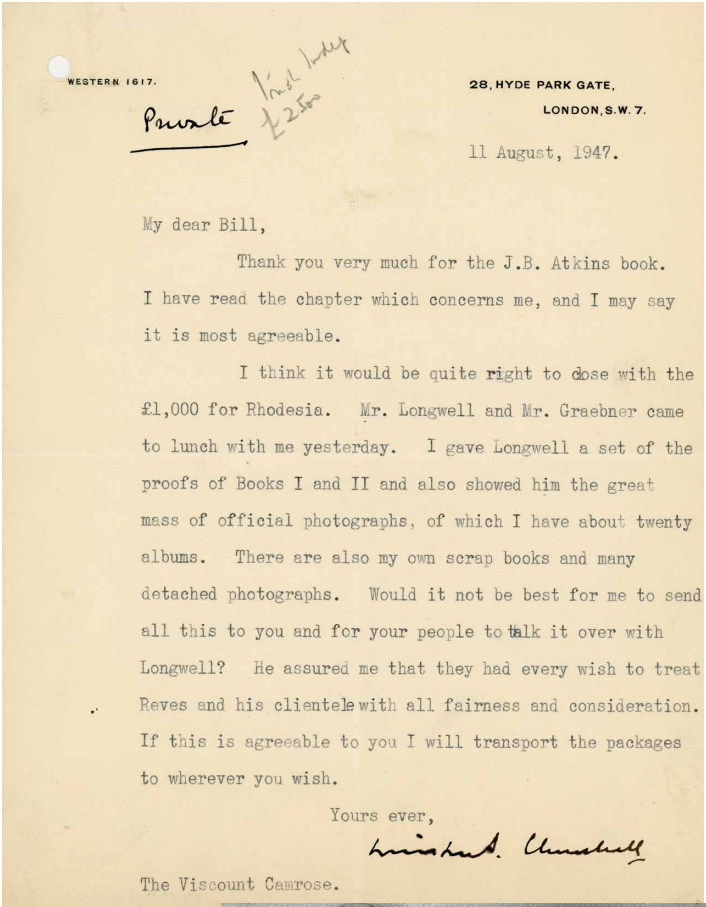
An archive containing correspondence between Winston S. Churchill and his close friend, the publishing magnate Viscount Camrose, as well as Camrose’s sons, the correspondence spanning sixteen years, from 1946 to 1962, and including seventeen instances of Churchill’s signature, as well as various salutations, valedictions, emendations, and annotations in Churchill’s hand

This remarkable archive contains correspondence from Winston S. Churchill to his close friend, William Ewart Berry, 1st Viscount Camrose (1879-1954) and Camrose’s sons, centered on the conception, writing, and publication of Churchill’s Second World War memoirs. Churchill’s signature appears seventeen different times in this archive, along with various salutations, valedictions, emendations, and annotations. The correspondence spans sixteen years, from 15 October 1946 to 11 October 1962, detailing multiple aspects of Churchill’s war memoirs, from concerns attending initial conception before Churchill began writing to submittal of the final words of the sixth and final volume.

Among other things, Churchill’s letters in this archive illuminate his “Private & Confidential” considerations, his exacting engagement in editing his work, the tensions between his obligations as an author and a statesman, his finances, his health, his postwar travel, how early and earnestly Churchill advocated for a sixth volume, and the nature and intimacy of his working relationship with Camrose. Churchill’s letters are posted from Chartwell, Hyde Park Gate, Hotel de la Mamounia in Marrakech, New York City, 10 Downing Street, and Villa Politi in Syracuse, Sicily. Six of Churchill’s letters are explicitly marked either “Private” or “Private & Confidential”. While the primary voice in the archive is that of Churchill, it also contains contributions from Camrose, Camrose’s sons Seymour (2nd Viscount Camrose) and Michael (Baron Hartwell), Isaiah Berlin, and Emery Reves, as well as various secretarial notations.

**Included in the archive are:**

- Ten typed, signed letters from Churchill to Camrose
- A two-page typed “aide memoire” from Churchill for Camrose pleading Churchill’s case for a sixth and final volume of his war memoirs
- Four typed, signed letters from Churchill to Camrose’s son, Seymour (2nd Viscount Camrose)
- Two typed, signed letters from Churchill to Camrose’s son, Michael (Baron Hartwell)
- A telegram from then-Prime Minister Churchill to Seymour and Michael
- A postmarked 10 Downing Street envelope from the final year of Churchill’s premiership (accompanying Churchill’s letter of condolence to Seymour and Michael on the death of their father)
- Two typed pages of comments from Isaiah Berlin on Book I of the first volume of *The Second World War*
- A three-page draft letter by Emery Reves to Churchill’s publishers
- File copies of various correspondence from Camrose and his son, Seymour, to Churchill

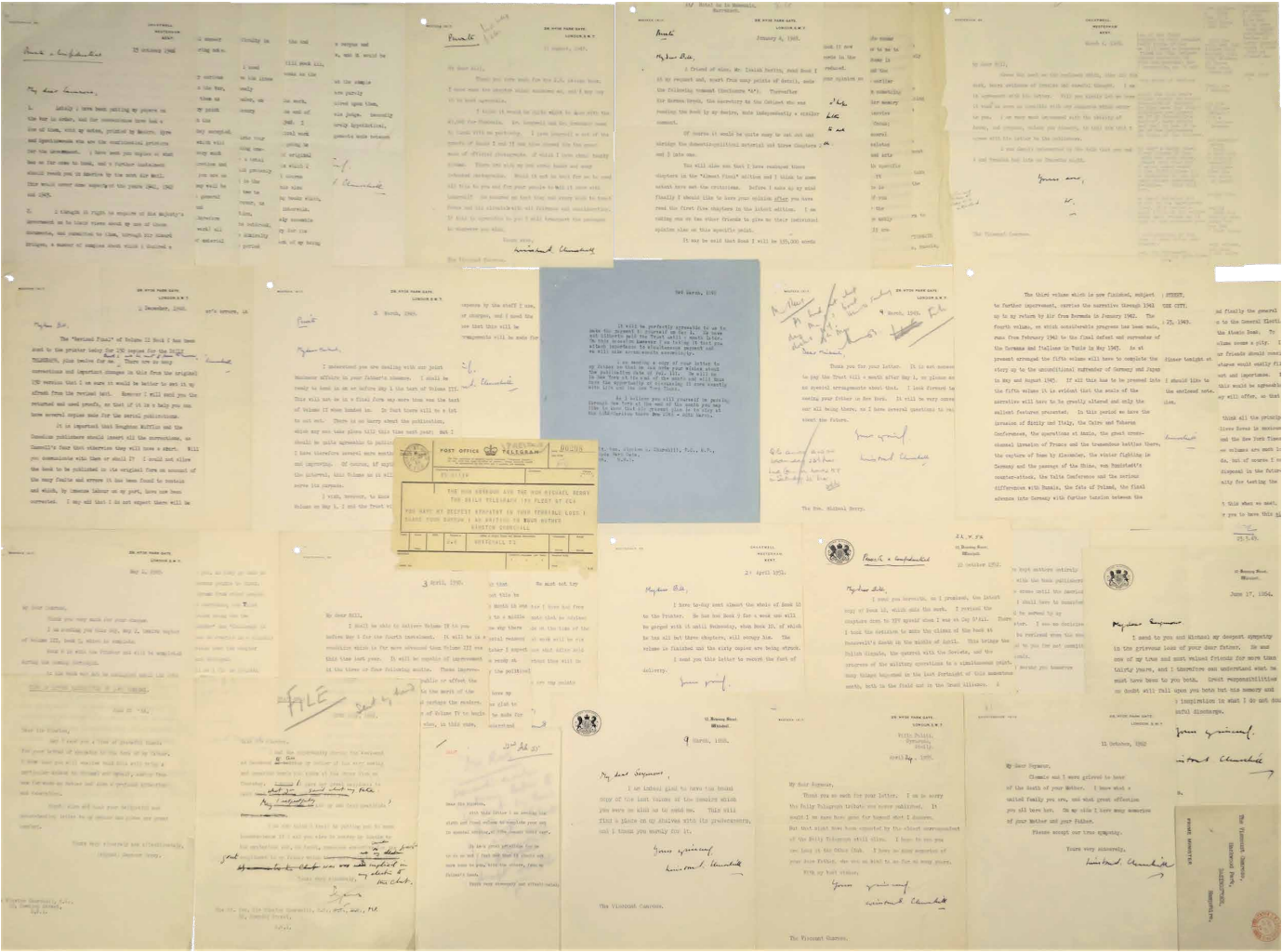


Of his close friend, addressed in this archive as “My dear Bill...”, Churchill wrote in one of the letters in this archive, “He was one of my most true and most valued friends for more than thirty years.”

British newspaper publisher William Ewart Berry, 1st Viscount Camrose, owned (with his brother, Lord Kemsley) the *Daily Telegraph* and *Morning Post* – both papers for which a very young Churchill had served as a war correspondent in the final years of the 19th century during the reign of Queen Victoria. Churchill’s wartime and postwar publisher in Britain – Cassell – was also linked to Camrose; Sir Walter Newman Flower (1879-1964) purchased the book-publishing part of Cassell in 1927 from Camrose and Kemsley.

After the Second World War, Camrose played crucial roles in securing Churchill’s prosperity. Churchill turned to Camrose to help negotiate sale of publication rights to Churchill’s war memoirs - “perhaps the greatest coup of Twentieth Century publishing”. Sale of these rights enabled the financial security not only of Churchill, but of his family, via a special Family Trust (alluded to in this archive’s correspondence) whereby all earnings from his war memoirs would go to the benefit of his children and grandchildren without the burden of taxation. Camrose also assembled a consortium of benefactors to buy Churchill’s beloved country estate, Chartwell, allowing Churchill to reside there for the rest of his life for a nominal rent.

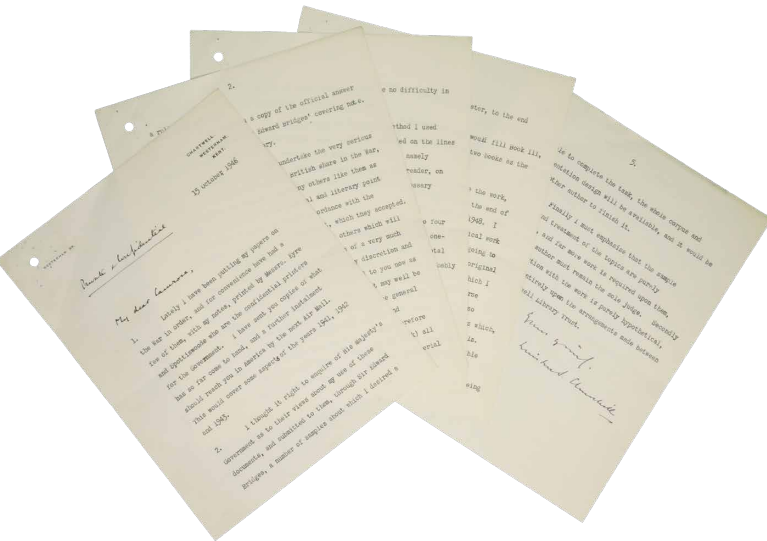
Camrose died in June 1954, just a few months after British publication of the sixth and final volume of Churchill’s war memoirs and less than a year before Churchill finally and irrevocably relinquished the reins of power, resigning his second and final premiership and passing “into a living national memorial” of the time he lived and the Nation, Empire, and free world he served. After the death of Camrose, the archive’s correspondence continues with Churchill expressing his condolences to Camrose’s sons on the loss of their father and also corresponding about the final volume of *The Second World War* and Seymour succeeding his father as a member of Churchill’s Other Club. The archive terminates with an October 1962 letter from Churchill to Camrose’s sons expressing condolences on the death of their mother.



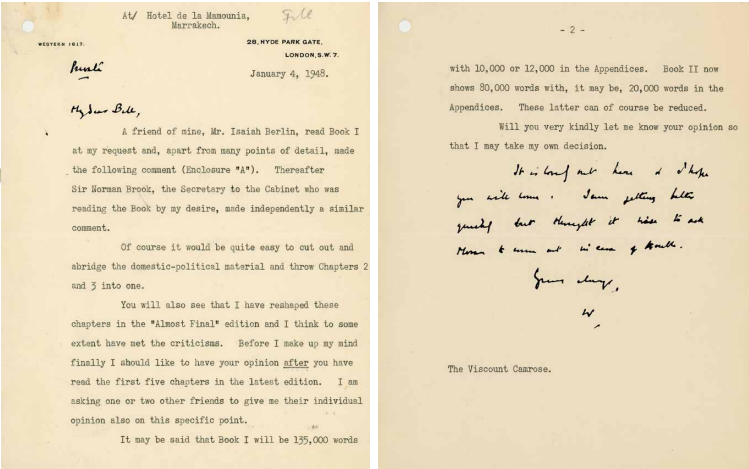


A full inventory of items in this archive follows.

Document	Date	Recipient	Salutation & Valediction	Description
TLS <i>See image below.</i>	15 October 1946	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Camrose” “Yours Sincerely, Winston S. Churchill”	Five-page letter on Chartwell stationery hand-marked “Private & Confidential”. A striking letter detailing in seven points Churchill’s initial considerations in considering his war memoirs.
TLS	1 August 1947	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Bill” “Yours ever, Winston S. Churchill”	Single page letter on Hyde Park Gate stationery hand-marked “Private”. Regarding “proofs of Books I and II” as well as official photographs.
TLS <i>See image below.</i>	4 January 1948	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Bill”, concluding with a lengthy holograph note and “Yours always, W”	Two pages, Hyde Park Gate stationery headed (in type) “At/ Hotel de la Mamounia, Marrakech.” Letter hand-marked “Private”. Regarding Books I & II and discussing a review by Isaiah Berlin: “A friend of mine, Mr. Isaiah Berlin, read Book I at my request and... made the following comment (Enclosure “A”).” A final paragraph entirely in Churchill’s hand reads “It is not hot here & I hope you will come. I am getting better quickly but thought it wise to ask Moran to come out in case of trouble.” Berlin’s comments are three typed pages on onion skin, hand-lettered “A” at the head of p.1
TLS	6 March 1948	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Bill”, “Yours ever, W.”	Single page on Chartwell stationery. “Reeves has sent me the enclosed which, like all his work, bears evidence of precise and careful thought...” The referenced “enclosed” from Reeves is indeed quite a detailed draft three-page letter to the publishers.

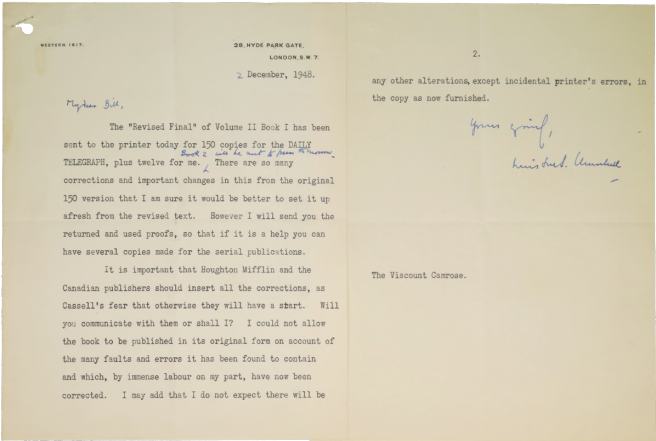


15 October 1946 - Five-page letter on Chartwell stationery hand-marked “Private & Confidential”.

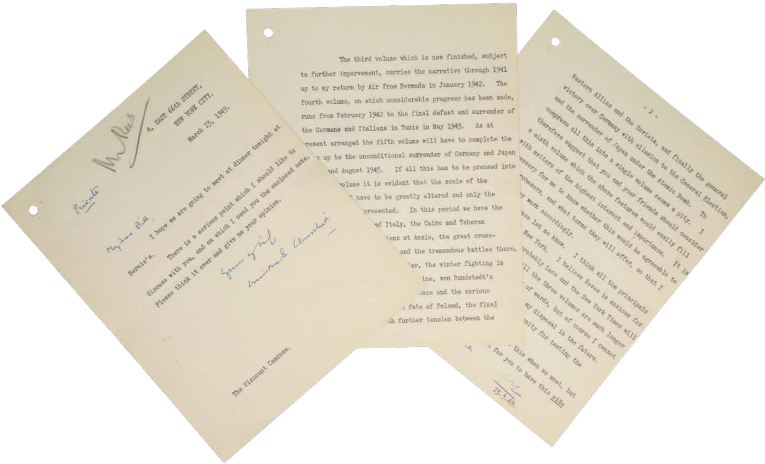


4 January 1948 - Two pages, Hyde Park Gate stationery headed (in type) “At/ Hotel de la Mamounia, Marrakech.” Letter hand-marked “Private”.

Document	Date	Recipient	Salutation & Valediction	Description
TLS <i>See image below.</i>	2 December 1948	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Bill”, “Yours sincerely, Winston S. Churchill”	Two-page letter on Hyde Park Gate stationery. Hand-corrected by Churchill. Regarding sending of the “Revised Final” of Volume II Book I to the printer. Extensive comment on the revisions and corrections process and Churchill’s concerns about same: “I could not allow the book to be published in its original form on account of the many faults and errors...”
TLS	2 March 1949	The Hon. Michael Berry, (William Michael Berry, Baron Hartwell)	“My dear Michael”, “Yours Sincerely, Winston S. Churchill”	Two-page letter on Hyde Park Gate stationery marked “Private”. Opens “I understand you are dealing with our joint business affairs in your father’s absence.” Discussing handing in the text of Volume III and requesting an installment: “I am put to great expense by the staff I use...”
File copy of a TLS <i>See image below.</i>	3 March 1949	Winston Churchill	Presumably from Michael Berry (William Michael Berry, Baron Hartwell)	Clearly in reply to Churchill’s letter of 2 March requesting an installment payment and accommodating said request. Churchill is the specified recipient, though there is no salutation or valediction on this file copy typed on blue paper.
TLS	9 March 1949	The Hon. Michael Berry (William Michael Berry, Baron Hartwell)	“Dear Michael”, “Yours Sincerely, Winston S. Churchill”	Single page letter on Hyde Park Gate stationery regarding the payment requested on 2 March. Extensive pencil notation on the letter, apparently regarding logistics of Churchill’s forthcoming travel plans to NY referenced in the body of the letter.



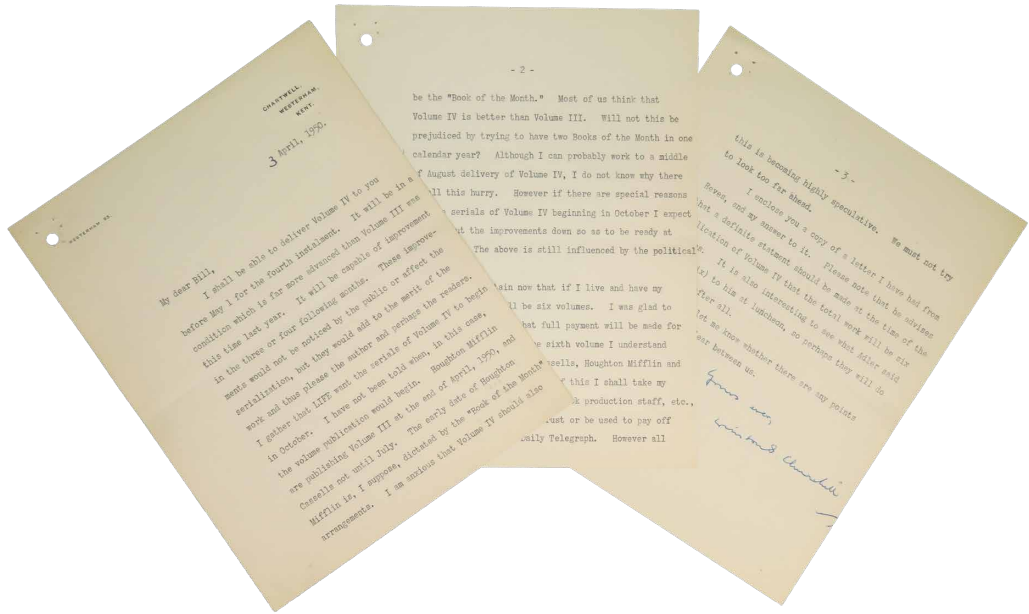
2 December 1948 - Two-page letter on Hyde Park Gate stationery, hand-corrected by Churchill.



3 March 1949 - Clearly in reply to Churchill’s letter of 2 March requesting an installment payment and accommodating said request.

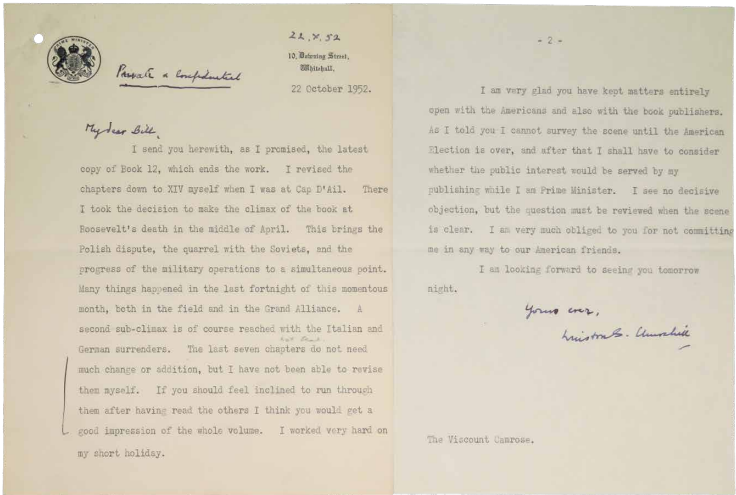


Document	Date	Recipient	Salutation & Valediction	Description
TLS and accompanying typed, signed “aide memoire” note	23 March 1949 (both documents)	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Bill”, “Yours sincerely Winston S. Churchill”	Single page addressed “4, East 66th Street, New York City”. The letter references their dinner plans and “a serious point... on which I send you the enclosed note.” The “note” is two typed pages detailing the contents of the forthcoming fourth and fifth volumes and in order to set the stage for a request “a sixth volume which the above features would easily fill with matters of the highest interest and importance. It is necessary for me to know whether this would be agreeable...” Churchill calls the note an “aide memoire” and signs it “WSC” above the typed date “23.3.49”
TLS	2 May 1949	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Camrose”, “Yours sincerely, Winston S Churchill”	Two pages, Hyde Park Gate stationery. Volume III, books 5 and 6. Again, Churchill is concerned with editing time for same.
TLS <i>See image below.</i>	3 April 1950	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Bill”, “Yours ever, Winston S. Churchill”	Three pages, Chartwell Stationery. Discussing plans for delivery of Volume IV and discussing how editing will continue, during serialization and prior to book publication. “These improvements would not be noticed by the public or affect the serialization...” Houghton Mifflin publication is discussed, as are schedules. “The above is still influenced by the political uncertainty. It is certain now that if I live and have my liberty the book will be six volumes...”

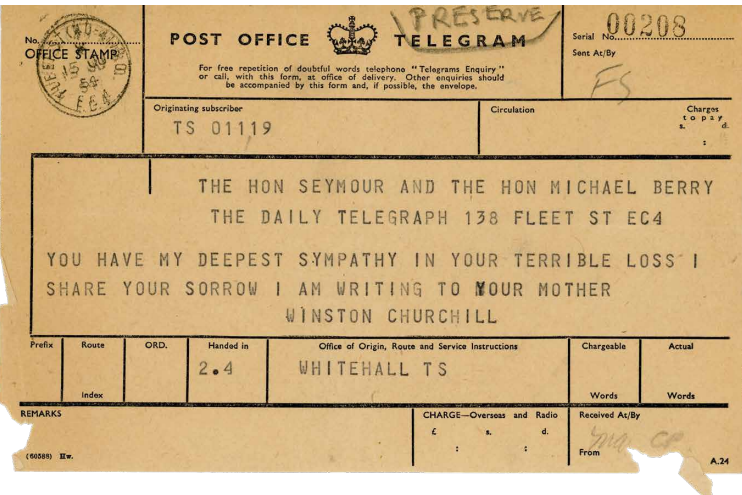


3 April 1950 - Three pages, Chartwell Stationery. Discussing plans for delivery of Volume IV and discussing how editing will continue, during serialization and prior to book publication.

Document	Date	Recipient	Salutation & Valediction	Description
TLS	21 April 1951	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Bill”, “Yours sincerely, Win- ston S. Churchill”	A single page on Chartwell stationery regard- ing submission of “Book 10” – “The volume is finished...”
TLS <i>See image below.</i>	22 October 1952	William Ewart Berry 1st Viscount Camrose	“My dear Bill”, “Yours ever Winston S. Churchill”	Two pages on 10 Downing Street stationery designated “Private & Confidential”. “I send you herewith as I promised, the latest copy of Book 12, which ends the work...” The letter discusses in some detail edits and organization in the book effected by Churchill: “I worked very hard on my short holiday.” Also discusses American publication: “I cannot survey the scene until the American election is over, and after that I shall have to consider whether the public interest would be served by my publishing while I am Prime Minister.”
Telegram <i>See image below.</i>	15 June 1954	John Seymour Berry, 2nd Viscount Camrose and William Michael Berry, Baron Hartwell		Post Office Telegram date stamped 15 June 1954, the day the 1st Viscount Camrose died: “THE HON SEYMOUR AND THE HON MICHAEL BERRY THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 138 FLEET ST EC4 YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN YOUR TERRIBLE LOSS I SHARE YOUR SOR- ROW I AM WRITING TO YOUR MOTHER WINSTON CHURCHILL” The office of origin is “WHITEHALL T S”



22 October 1952 - Two pages on 10 Downing Street stationery designated “Private & Confidential”.

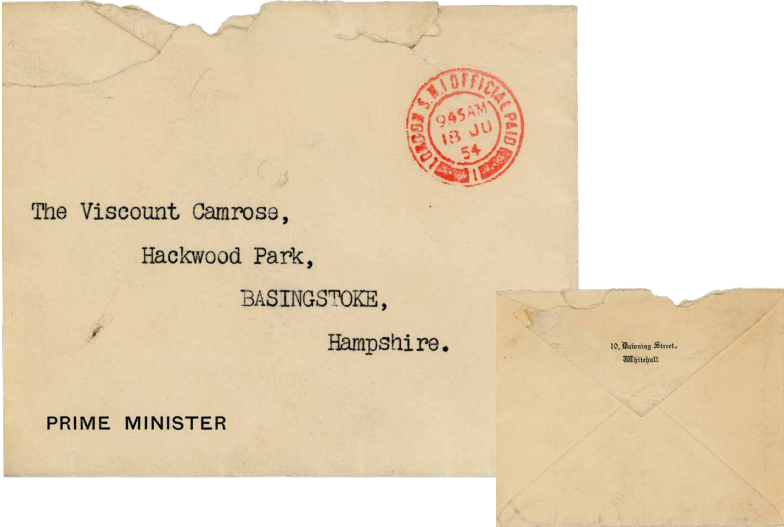
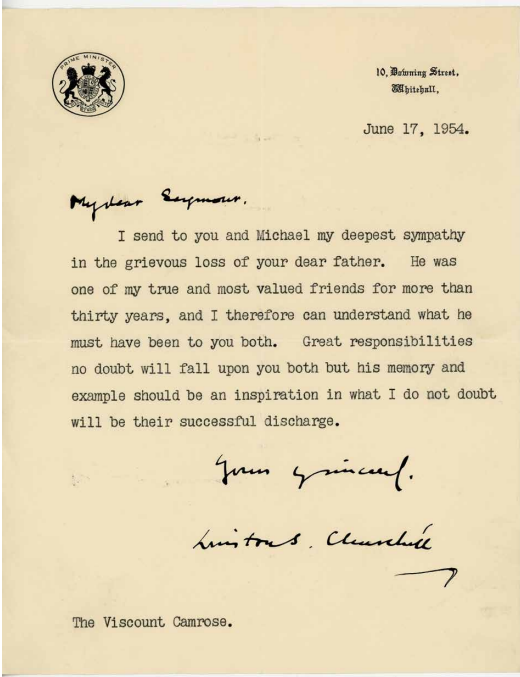


Post Office Telegram date stamped 15 June 1954, the day the 1st Viscount Camrose died.

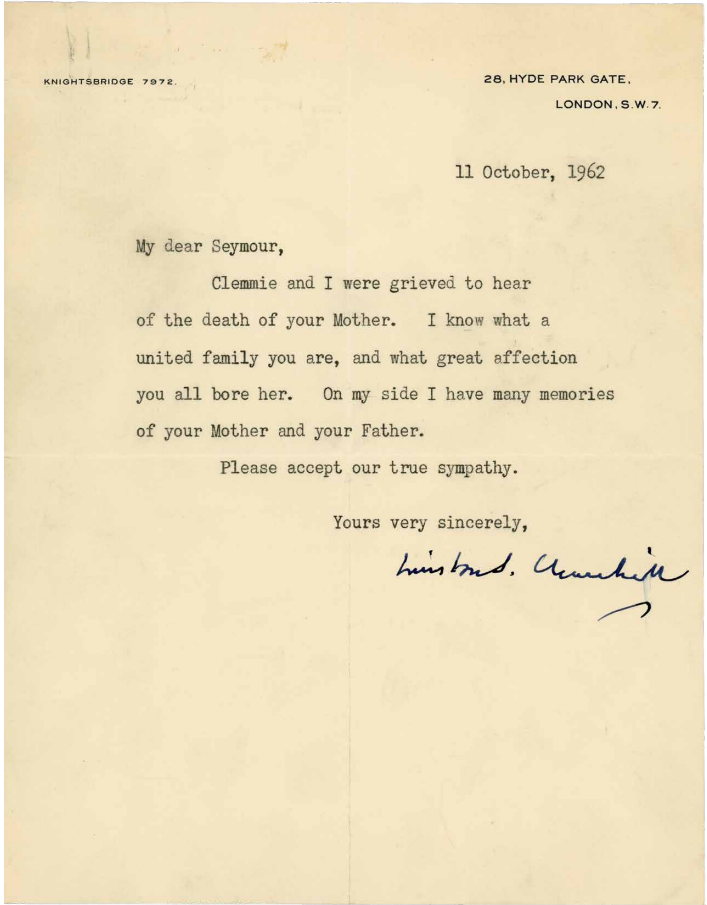


Document	Date	Recipient	Salutation & Valediction	Description
TLS and accompanying postmarked 10 Downing Street envelope <i>See images below.</i>	17 June 1954	John Seymour Berry, 2nd Viscount Camrose	“My dear Seymour”, “Yours sincerely, Winston S. Churchill”	Single page letter on 10 Downing Street stationery. Letter of condolence to the 2nd Viscount Camrose on the death of the 1st: “I send to you and Michael my deepest sympathy in the grievous loss of your father. He was one of my true and most valued friends for more than thirty years...”
“Copy of letter handwritten by Lord Camrose”	22 June 1954	Winston Churchill	“Dear Sir Winston”, “Yours very sincerely, Seymour”	A typed copy of a handwritten letter sent by Seymour Berry thanking Churchill for his 17 June 1954 letter of condolence “...coming from one for whom my father had such profound affection and veneration”, as well as a letter Churchill apparently sent to Seymour’s mother.
Draft TLS	13 July 1954	Winston Churchill	“Dear Sir Winston”, “Yours very sincerely, Seymour”	A typed, extensively hand-corrected draft noted “FILE” and “sent by hand” of a letter to Churchill thanking him for “the very moving and generous words you spoke at the Other Club on Thursday... about my Father.” As well as thanking Churchill for “my election to the club.”
Draft note	22 February 1955	Winston Churchill	“Dear Sir Winston”	A DRAFT note from John Seymour Berry, 2nd Viscount Camrose: “With this letter I am sending the sixth and final volume to complete your set in special binding of “The Second World War” ...Appended to the note is a hand written note in pencil “Herewith envelope containing letter to be sent by hand to Downing Str... you might keep typewritten draft for file. C”

Document	Date	Recipient	Salutation & Valediction	Description
TLS	9 March 1955	John Seymour Berry, 2nd Viscount Camrose	“My dear Seymour”, “Yours sincerely, Winston S. Churchill”	Single page letter on 10 Downing Street stationery: “I am indeed glad to have the bound copy of the last Volume of the Memoirs which you were so kind as to send me...”
TLS	24 April 1955	John Seymour Berry, 2nd Viscount Camrose	“My dear Seymour”, “Yours sincerely, Winston S. Churchill”	Single page letter on Hyde Park Gate stationery with typed location “Villa Politi, Syracuse, Sicily”. Churchill had resigned his second and final premiership on 5 April. The letter offers thanks for a Daily Telegraph tribute that was never published. “It would I am sure have gone far beyond what I deserve. But that might have been expected by the oldest correspondent of the Daily Telegraph still alive. I hope to see you ere long at the Other Club...”
TLS <i>See image below.</i>	11 October 1962	John Seymour Berry, 2nd Viscount Camrose	“My dear Seymour”, “Yours very sincerely, Winston S. Churchill”	Single page letter on Hyde Park Gate stationery. “Clemmie and I were grieved to hear of the death of your Mother.”



Single page 17 June 1954 letter on 10 Downing Street stationery. Letter of condolence to the 2nd Viscount Camrose on the death of the 1st.



Single page 11 October 1962 letter on Hyde Park Gate stationery.

[CBC #006123]

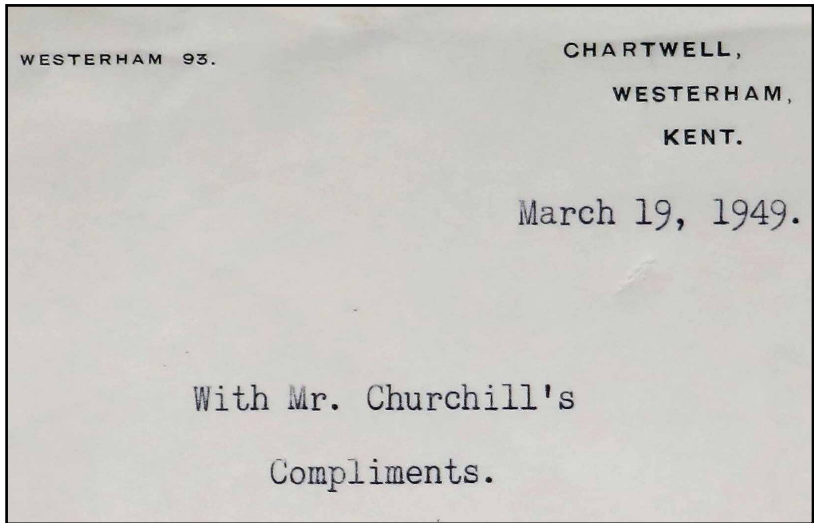
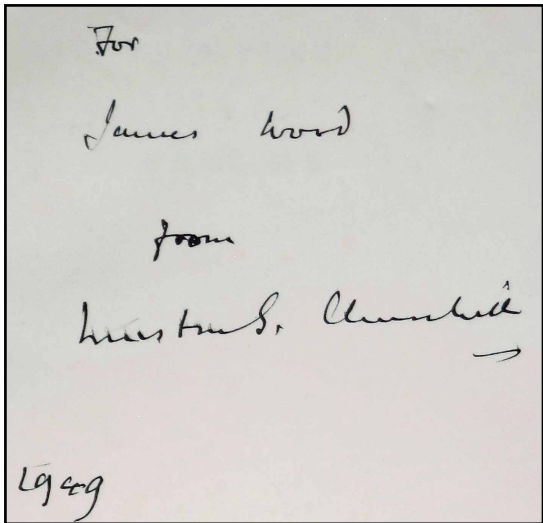
\$59,500 USD



# 14

## Painting as a Pastime

An author’s presentation copy of the first edition, inscribed and dated by Churchill three months after publication, accompanied by a compliments slip on the stationery of Chartwell, the author’s beloved country home  
*Odhams Press Limited, Ernest Benn Limited, London, 1948*



This is a presentation copy of the first edition, first printing of *Painting as a Pastime*, Churchill’s essay about his famous hobby, inscribed and dated by the author and accompanied by his compliments slip. Churchill’s signature, inked in black in five lines on the front free endpaper recto, reads: “For | James Wood | from | Winston S. Churchill | 1949”. Laid in is a sheet of Churchill’s Chartwell stationery typed in three lines: “March 19, 1949. | With Mr. Churchill’s | Compliments.” This date is three months from the December 1948 publication. The recipient, James Wood (1886-1972), of the eponymous firm Wood, Willey & Co. he founded in 1934, was Churchill’s accountant for many years. (Gilbert, Vol. VIII, p.1166 & Lough, *No More Champagne*, p.250)

### Edition and condition

While the first edition of *Painting as a Pastime* was an attractive enough little book, the coarse, pale green cloth binding proved highly susceptible to soiling and sunning and the thin maroon and white dust jacket incredibly vulnerable to wear.

Condition of this inscribed copy is better than most we see, very good in a very good dust jacket. The binding is square, tight, and clean with only minor wear to extremities. There is minor toning to the perimeter of the covers and the spine, with a partial, one-inch (2.5 cm) strip of greater sunning to the upper rear cover. The contents are notably clean and bright for the edition with no spotting and no previous ownership marks. Apart from the author’s inscription, we note only a partial paperclip indentation and stain, matching one on the compliments slip, at the head of the inscribed front free endpaper recto and the facing front pastedown. The typed compliments slip on Churchill’s Chartwell stationery, laid in at the front pastedown, is clean apart from the paperclip stain and indentation at the upper edge. The dust jacket is nearly complete, unclipped with the original front flap price intact, and suffering only fractional loss to the spine ends. The maroon print and background is unfaded on both the covers and spine, despite wear to hinges and extremities and some soiling of the white rear panel. The dust jacket is protected beneath a removable, clear, archival cover.

The book is housed in a folding red cloth chemise lined with marbled paper. Tipped onto the inner chemise is the illustrated book plate of “The Winston S. Churchill Collection of Donald Scott Carmichael”. Carmichael (1912-2008) was a noted collector of both Churchill and Roosevelt material. The chemise is nested within a slipcase featuring quarter red Morocco goatskin spine with raised bands, elaborately decorated compartments, and green title and author panels. The slipcase’s red cloth sides match the cloth exterior of the chemise.

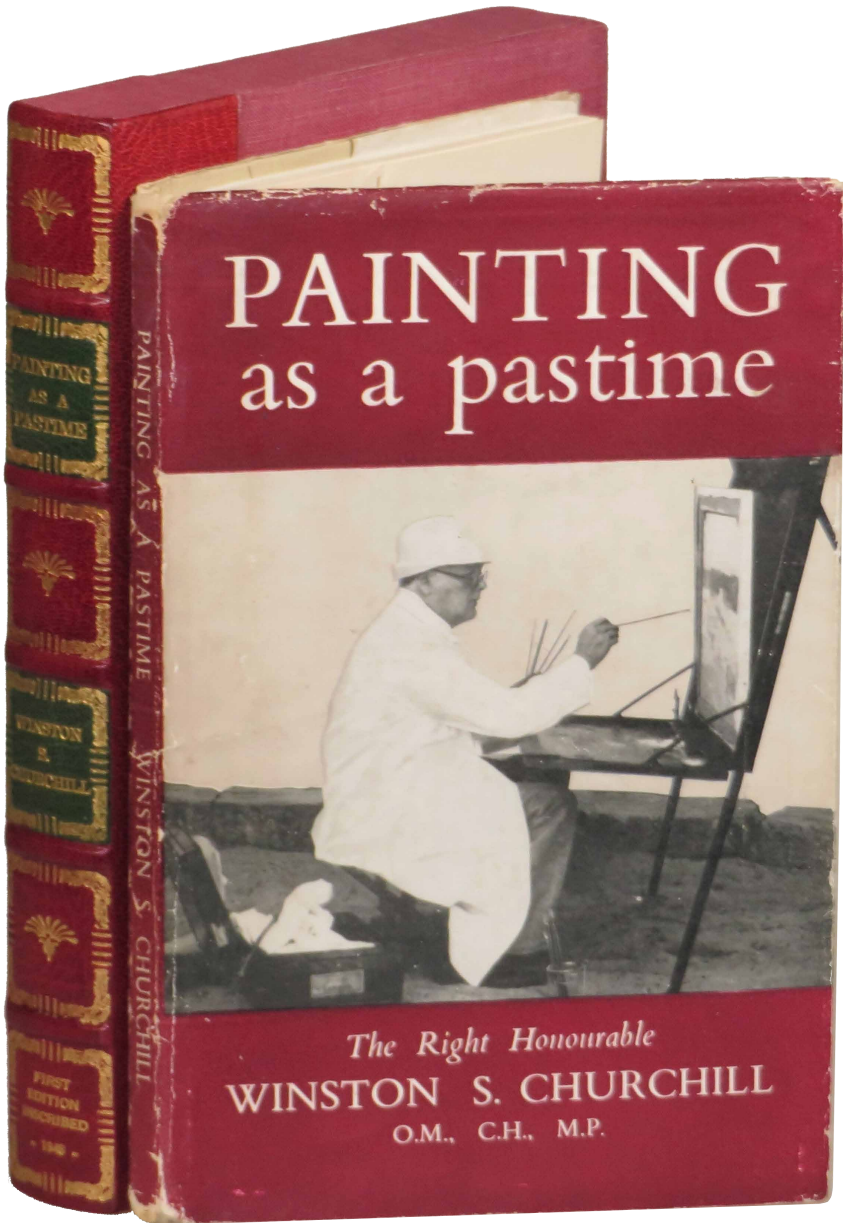
### Painting and writing

The content of *Painting as a Pastime* had been printed in *The Strand Magazine* as early as 1921, but it was not until 1948 - nearly three decades after his first published words on the subject - that Churchill consented to a book about his pastime and passion.

Soldier, writer, and politician, Churchill was perhaps an unlikely painter. Nonetheless he proved both a prolific and passionate one. Churchill first took up painting during the First World War. May 1915 saw Churchill scapegoated for failure in the Dardanelles and slaughter at Gallipoli and forced from his Cabinet position at the Admiralty. By November 1915 Churchill was serving at the Front, leading a battalion in the trenches. But during the summer of 1915, as he battled depression, he rented Hoe Farm in Surrey, which he frequented with his wife and three children. One day in June, Churchill noticed his brother’s wife, Gwendoline, sketching in watercolors. Churchill borrowed her brush and swiftly found solace in painting, which would be a passion and source of release and renewal for the remaining half century of his long life.

Winston’s wife Clementine had opposed the idea of her husband’s opining in print on the subject, concerned that he might be belittled by professional painters and others. Clementine aside, it may be that behind Churchill’s comparative reticence on the subject was a desire to keep something personal in the great and turbulent sweep of his otherwise tremendously public life. He wrote, “Painting is a friend who makes no undue demands, excites to no exhausting pursuits, keeps faithful pace even with feeble steps, and holds her canvas as a screen between us and the envious eyes of Time or the surly advance of Decrepitude” (*Painting as a Pastime*, p. 13).

Whatever Churchill’s reason for penning and ultimately consenting to book publication of *Painting as a Pastime* complete with images of his paintings, the relatively few words he offered on the subject add something truly personal and different to the great body of his writing.





Chartwell, accountancy, and painting

It is neither incidental nor inappropriate that this book was sent with a compliments slip from Chartwell, Churchill’s beloved country home. Nor is it as prosaic as it might seem for Churchill to inscribe a book on as lyrical a subject as painting to as mundane a figure as his accountant. Indeed, it is rather fitting; as much as having Chartwell nourished Churchill’s spirit, the keeping of it preyed upon his finances. Reconciling the cost to the passion had fallen to Mr. Wood.

Indeed, as early as the 1930s, Churchill was asking Wood to devise cost-cutting regimens at Chartwell. Wood would produce eminently prudent and predictably unwelcome recommendations, such as cutting servants, reducing the swimming pool temperature, pruning the laundry bill and – perhaps boldest of all given his employer – investigating expenditures on wine and cigars. We may not yet know the full toll for some years to come: “Very few of Churchill’s personal papers lodged in his archive remain restricted; the main exception is the working papers of his accountants, Wood, Willey & Co.” This despite the fact that Wood’s lengthy reports to Churchill are open to researchers. (Lough, *No More Champagne*, pages 250 & 416)

On 9 September 1922, Winston’s wife, Clementine, “gave birth to their fifth child, a daughter whom they christened Mary. Also that day he bought a country house in Kent, Chartwell manor...” (Gilbert, *A Life*, p.450) Perhaps no physical place - not Blenheim Palace where Churchill was born, the Houses of Parliament where he served for six decades, 10 Downing Street where he twice resided as Prime Minister, or St. Paul’s Cathedral where his Queen and leaders from around the world mourned his death - would more deeply affect Churchill’s life and legacy.

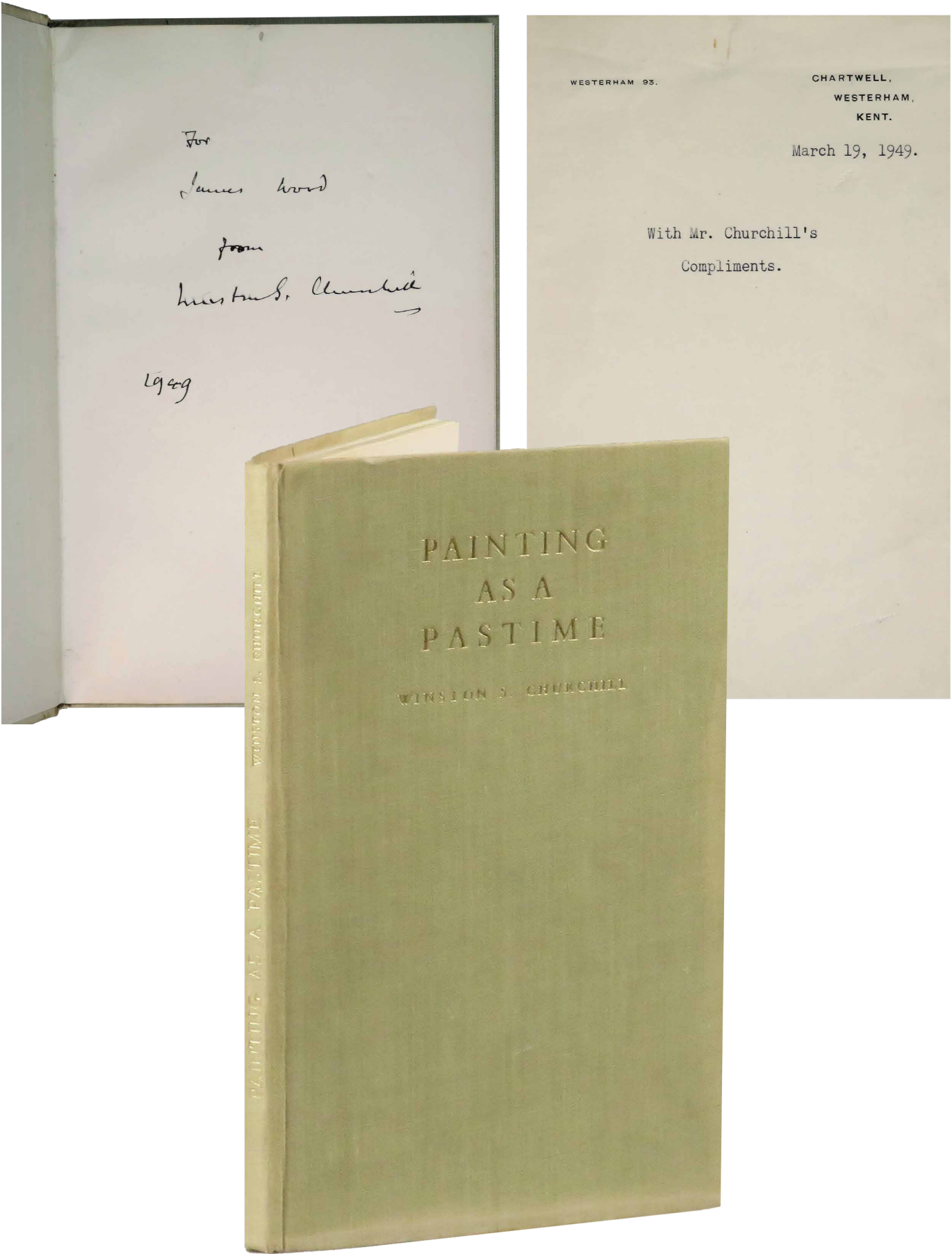
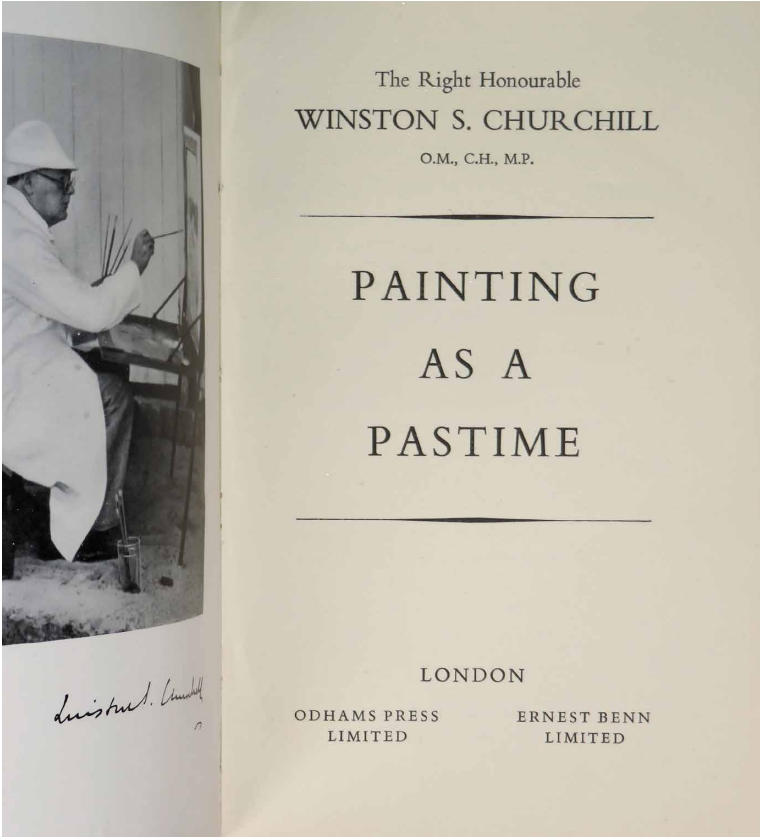
At Chartwell, Churchill was by turns father, husband, painter, landscaper, and bricklayer and work on improving the house and gardens continued for much of Churchill’s life. Chartwell proved Churchill’s vital sanctuary during the “wilderness years” of the 1930s. And, of course, Chartwell served Churchill as “my factory” as he turned out an incredible volume of writing. Even during the darkest days of the Second World War, Chartwell was a place of refuge and renewal.

In 1946, three years before this copy was inscribed, the financial burden of Chartwell was relieved for both Churchill and Mr. Wood. After the Second World War, Churchill’s friend, Lord Camrose, assembled a consortium of benefactors to buy Chartwell, allowing Churchill to reside there for the rest of his life for a nominal rent. On Churchill’s death the property was given to the National Trust as a permanent memorial. Churchill did not leave Chartwell for the final time until mid-October 1964. Chartwell, with its more than 80 acres of woodland and farmland, remains a National Trust property, full of Churchill’s paintings and belongings, inhabited by his memory and spirit.

Churchill painted Chartwell many times. One of Churchill’s oft-reproduced paintings is his “View from Chartwell”, painted circa 1938, a decade before this volume was published and inscribed. Another of Churchill’s Chartwell paintings, herein titled “Chartwell Under Snow”, is the final of 18 Churchill paintings reproduced in color in this volume. Titled elsewhere as “Winter Sunshine, Chartwell” (Coombs C142), in 1925 this painting “was entered anonymously in a London exhibition open to amateur painters and won first prize; and in 1947, when entered under a pseudonym, it gained Churchill his first entry at the Royal Academy’s Summer Exhibition.” (Coombs, *Sir Winston Churchill’s Life Through His Paintings*, p.66)

Reference: Cohen A242.1.a, Woods/ICS A125(a), Langworth p.288. [CBC #006462]

\$12,000 USD





15

The Grand Alliance

The U.S. first edition of the third volume of Churchill’s history of the Second World War, inscribed and dated in the year of publication to Lady Davina Woodhouse - the daughter of Churchill’s first great love, widow of one Second World War hero, wife to another, and former mistress to Churchill’s foreign secretary  
*Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1950*

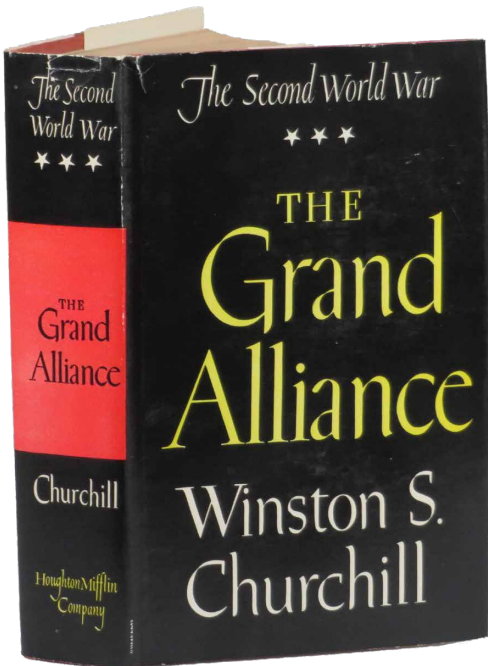
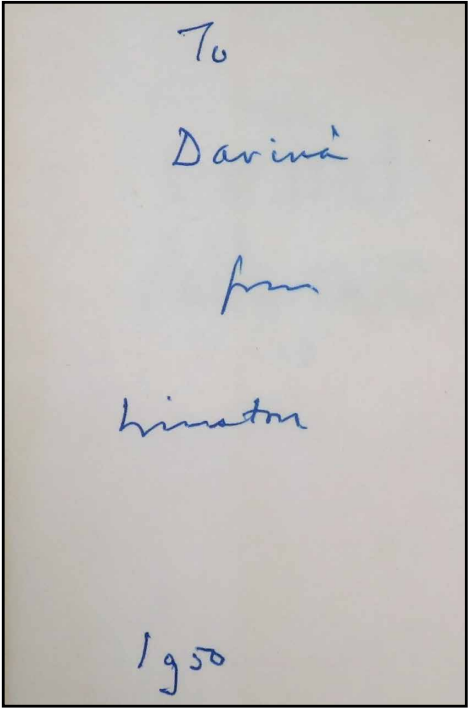
This inscribed U.S. first edition of *The Grand Alliance*, the third volume of Winston S. Churchill’s Second World War memoirs, represents a compelling convergence of lives. First, the recipient - Lady Davina Woodhouse, the daughter of Churchill’s first great love, Pamela Plowden. Second, Davina’s husband, Monty Woodhouse, who inhabits some of the history recounted in this book, and who would likewise prove integral to geopolitical events during Churchill’s second and final premiership. Third is the man Davina did *not* marry, Anthony Eden, Churchill’s long-time lieutenant and long-delayed, ill-fated successor as Prime Minister.

Inscription

The inscription, five lines inked in blue on the front free endpaper recto, reads “To | Davina | from | Winston | 1950”.

Condition

Condition of this inscribed copy approaches very good minus in a very good plus dust jacket. The red cloth binding remains bright and clean with minor shelf wear confined to extremities. The contents are respectably bright and clean. We find no previous ownership marks other than the author’s presentation inscription. The front hinge is slightly tender, but nonetheless solidly intact with no threat to binding integrity. The pastedowns are mildly browned from the glue. Light spotting is confined to the page edges. The original topstain is faded and the head and tail bands dimpled. Head and tail bands, dated title page, copyright page, topstain, and binding are all consonant with first printing of the first edition, as is the unclipped, “\$6.00” price on the dust jacket flap. The jacket is bright, clean, and complete. Light wear is primarily confined to the spine head and adjacent upper front face, front hinge, and front flap fold. The red spine panel is only lightly sunned. The jacket is protected beneath a clear, removable, archival cover.



The Association(s)

Lady Davidema “Davina” Katharine Cynthia Mary Millicent Bulwer-Lytton, (1909-1995) was the daughter of Pamela Frances Audrey Bulwer-Lytton (née Plowden), Countess of Lytton (1874-1971). Winston Churchill met Pamela Plowden in India in late 1896. Pamela was Winston’s “first great love”. For several years, during his early career as an itinerant, adventure-seeking cavalry officer and war correspondent, “Churchill was obviously in love with this beautiful girl” and they maintained a robust and romantic correspondence. As late as 1900 Churchill’s mother had told him “Pamela is devoted to you and if yr love has grown as hers – I have no doubt it is only a question of time for you 2 marry.” In a letter of 1 January 1901 Churchill told his mother “she is the only woman I could ever live happily with.” (R. Churchill, Vol. I) But in the end there was no union. In 1902 Pamela married Victor Bulwer-Lytton, 2nd Earl of Lytton. Churchill married later, in 1908. Winston and Pamela “remained on affectionate terms” and Winston “continued to write to her for the rest of his life including two sympathetic letters after the deaths of her sons: Anthony, the eldest, in a 1933 air crash and John, at El Alamein in 1942” while Winston was wartime prime minister. In 1950 Winston wrote to Pamela recalling that he had proposed to her 50 years before. (Shaw, The Churchill Society London, 24/11/2003)



In 1932, “Davina”, Pamela and Victor’s second daughter, married John Henry George Chrichton, 5th Earl Erne (1907-1940). After an early military career, Erne resigned his commission, becoming an active member of the House of Lords. When the Second World War broke out, Erne was commissioned a Major and was killed in France on 23 May 1940, less than two weeks after Winston Churchill became wartime prime minister. Widowed Davina was left with their two-year-old son, Henry.



Winston Churchill’s wartime foreign secretary and Leader of the House of Commons, Robert Anthony Eden (1897-1977) had been a close friend of Erne. Eden, too, was acquainted with courage and sacrifice. Eden had served with distinction during the First World War, been awarded the Military Cross, promoted the youngest brigade major in the British Army, and lost his brother in the Battle of Jutland. Eden would later name his youngest son after his lost brother and would lose his oldest son – a pilot in the Pacific theater – in the closing days of the Second World War. In a different display of courage, Eden famously resigned as Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain’s foreign secretary in February 1938 in opposition to appeasement policies.

Eden’s marriage was “increasingly fragile” and his wife, Beatrice, “spent much of the latter part of the war in Paris.” (ODNB) After the death of Davina’s husband, Eden and Davina found solace in one another and “her presence was to be a constant factor over the next five years.” (Thorpe, *The Life and Times of Anthony Eden, First Earl of Avon*) “Davina’s vivacious intelligence and beauty left its mark on all who met her. Eden’s diary entries about her often had a gentle humor that testified to the ease and happiness of their growing relationship.”(Thorpe).





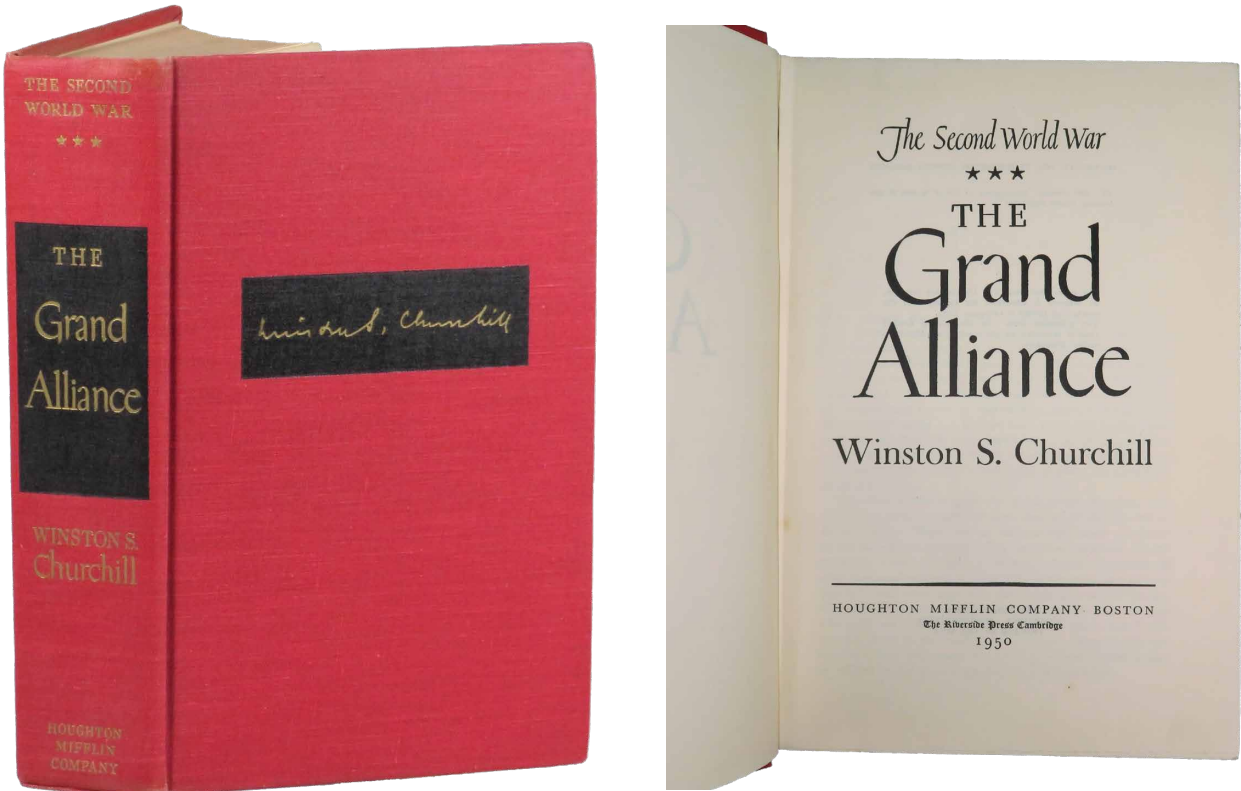
Into this scene – literally into Eden’s seventeenth-century house at Binderton – entered Christopher Montague “Monty” Woodhouse (1917-2001). Monty had been a brilliant classics scholar at Oxford and became a Byronic figure, described in 1944 as ‘the most famous man in Greece’. Monty was studying at the British School in Athens when Britain declared war on Germany. He hurried home to join the Royal Artillery, but the war would return him to Greece. He was with the British military mission to Greece after Italy invaded in October 1940. As a commando with the newly-formed Special Operations Executive (SOE), Monty “spent a few dispiriting months in Crete in the winter of 1941-42, assisting in the evacuation of Commonwealth troops... gathering intelligence... and assessing the prospects for resistance. (*The Guardian*) But Monty’s most dramatic return to Greece was by parachute in October 1942. Having risen to the rank of colonel, he was inserted into Greece with a team of saboteurs and coordinated communist and anti-communist guerillas – a rare moment of cooperation – to destroy rail facilities crucial to the enemy.

On 16 July 1944, Monty briefed Winston S. Churchill at Chequers, the prime minister’s country residence. “Churchill had been under pressure from the Greek Government in Cairo to withdraw the British missions attached to the Communist EAM partisans in Greece.” In consideration, Churchill “had a long talk with Colonel Woodhouse, who had just returned from Greece, where he was with one of the EAM groups.” Churchill recalled that Woodhouse “argued that the British missions were ‘a valuable restraint’ on the Communist forces” but also “that it might be ‘difficult and dangerous to get them out’”. Thus advised, Churchill agreed to let them stay but asked for them to be reduced. (Gilbert, *Vol. VII*, p.853)



A few weeks later, at the end of July, Woodhouse was invited to discuss Balkan strategy at Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden’s country home. After the meeting, Eden expressed his “entire faith” in Monty to the head of the SOE, writing of Monty’s “excellent work” and encouraging his promotion (Eden to Selbourne, 5 August 1944). However, for Monty, this was not the momentous outcome of the weekend with Eden.

Woodhouse recalled “Eden sent a car for me on Saturday morning, 29 July. The driver explained that he had to pick up another guest, the Countess of Erne. It filled me with foreboding: I foresaw a social weekend making polite conversation to a political dowager instead of talking seriously with Eden. We drove to the address I had been given, off Belgrave Square. I rang the bell, & the door was opened by a girl, whose image is still with me. I assumed this was the Countess’s lady’s maid, for she was surrounded by luggage. I helped to put it in the car, and looked around for the Countess. But no one else came. Amazing: this was the countess! We got into the car and drove off. Her name was Davina.” (Woodhouse, *Something Ventured*, p.86).



Davina and Monty wed on 28 August 1945. They had two sons (1946 and 1949) and a daughter (1954) and remained married 50 years, until Davina’s death in 1995. For his service in Greece Monty received British (DSO and OBE), American (Legion of Merit) and Greek decorations. In 1950, when this book was inscribed to his wife, Monty Woodhouse was back in Britain, returned from his military and diplomatic service, destined to leave for Tehran in 1951 where he would play a significant role in advocating and precipitating the Iranian coup of 1953 during Churchill’s second and final premiership. Monty became a Conservative Member of Parliament for Oxford from 1959 to 1966 and from 1970 to 1974 – “an appropriate constituency for a scholar who was a double first and a Gaisford Prizeman.” (Thorpe) He became 3rd Baron Terrington in 1998. After Monty Woodhouse died, a joint memorial service was held for him and Davina on 13 October 2001 at New College Chapel, Oxford.

In 1946, the year after Davina wed Monty, Beatrice left Anthony Eden to live in America. In 1950 – the year Churchill inscribed this volume to Davina – Eden’s marriage to Beatrice was dissolved. Divorce was still “a disqualifying social solecism for advancement in many professions and Churchill discreetly protected Eden from the difficulties of his new situation.” (ODNB) Eden’s second marriage (1952) was to Churchill’s niece. Eden would ultimately wait in the wings – both while the Conservatives were in opposition (1945-1951) and during Churchill’s second and final premiership (1951-1955) for nearly a decade after the end of the Second World War. Eden’s long-awaited premiership (1955-1957) proved fraught and arguably diminished, rather than crowning, his stature and reputation. As it did for Monty, the middle east figured in Eden’s fortunes. By January 1957, he had resigned the premiership he had so long sought, undone by both ill health and the Suez crisis.

*Churchill in 1950*

This U.S. first edition of *The Grand Alliance* was published on 24 April 1950. Churchill had been Leader of the Opposition for nearly five years. Having done so much to win the war, Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to Labour in the General Election of July 1945. On 26 July 1945 Churchill relinquished his premiership and was succeeded by Labour’s Clement Attlee. On 23 February 1950, just two months before publication, Churchill’s Conservative Party had gained 90 seats, but Labor eked out a small majority of just 5 seats. The end was near for Labour, who would lose the next General Election in 26 October of 1951, returning the Conservatives to majority and Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. As he fought Labour’s agenda in Parliament and their majority on the hustings, Churchill was busy writing and publishing. The fourth volume of his Second World War memoirs, *The Hinge of Fate*, was published on 25 November 1950 and the fifth, *Closing the Ring*, on 23 November 1951, less than a month after Churchill returned to power. The sixth and final volume, *Triumph and Tragedy*, would be completed amid his work as premier and published on Churchill’s birthday, on 30 November 1953.

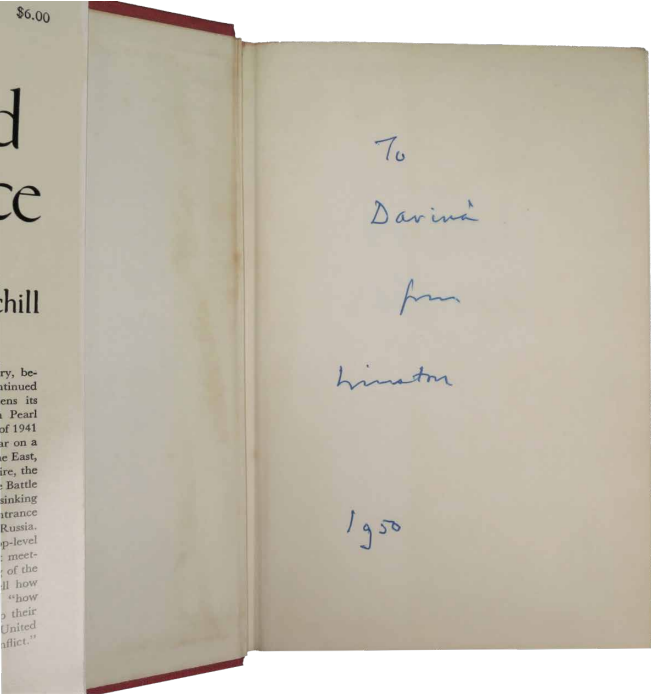


Edition

Seldom, if ever, has history endowed a statesman with both singular ability to make history, and singular ability to write it. As with so much of what Churchill wrote, *The Second World War* is not “history” in the strictly academic, objectivist sense, but rather Churchill’s perspective on history. In his March 1948 introduction to the first volume, Churchill himself made the disclaimer, “I do not describe it as history... it is a contribution to history...”

Nonetheless the compelling fact remains, as stated by Churchill himself, “I am perhaps the only man who has passed through both the two supreme cataclysms of recorded history in high Cabinet office... I was for more than five years in this second struggle with Germany the Head of His Majesty’s government. I write, therefore, from a different standpoint and with more authority than was possible in my earlier books.”

Certainly *The Second World War* may be regarded as an intensely personal and inherently biased history. But equally certain, Churchill’s work remains essential, iconic, and a vital part of the historical record and has been called “indispensable reading for anyone who seeks a true understanding of the war that made us what we are today.”



Securing the rights to publish Churchill’s war memoirs has been called “perhaps the greatest coup of Twentieth Century publishing.” It is difficult to overstate the effort and anticipation surrounding publication. For both British and American publishers, it was a mammoth undertaking. And the author himself was not least among the challenges.

The war transformed Churchill into an icon and elevated his already impressive literary career “to quite dizzying heights.” Moreover, he returned to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership in October 1951, before the final volumes of his history were completed and published. Churchill was an author whom publishers could not easily control but did not want to do without. Correspondence shows Churchill to have been every inch the demanding author. Churchill was fully engaged in the minutiae of his literary work and regularly corresponded directly with his publishers regarding everything from typos in the indexes to type face and the size of margins. And of course, Churchill’s exacting editorial requirements and his public duties were constantly pushing publication deadlines.

It turned out that the U.S. edition was published before its British counterpart, rendering the U.S. the true first edition. It is has been said that the U.S. publisher, Houghton Mifflin, ran out of patience with Churchill first. However, Churchill’s Bibliographer Ronald Cohen attributes the precedence of the U.S. publication to less romantic reasons “legal and financial, and not at all editorial.” Irrespective of the reason, the first U.S. volume, *The Gathering Storm*, was published on 21 June 1948. Its British counterpart was not published until 4 October. The same followed for subsequent volumes. While this inscribed U.S. first edition of the third volume, *The Grand Alliance*, was published on 24 April 1950, its British counterpart was not published until 20 July. It is particularly fitting that this inscribed copy of the third volume is a U.S. first edition, as it is in this volume that Pearl Harbor is attacked and the United States formally enters the war.

The U.S. first editions were issued in a uniform red cloth stamped black and gilt. The colorful dust jackets are all printed in the same style, with a colored dust jacket and contrasting color spine title panel. A concurrent Book-of-the-Month Club (BOMC) edition is often mistaken for the first edition. First printings of the first edition are generally distinguished by \$6.00 prices on the dust jacket flaps, publication dates at the foot of the title pages, yellow-stained top edges, head and foot bands, and lack of a BOMC indentation on the rear cover. There is a multitude of small variations in particulars given the large print run. In our experience, and for understandable reasons of geography and nationality, British first editions signed or inscribed by the author are far more common than are signed or inscribed U.S. first editions.

Reference: Cohen A240.1(III).a, Woods/ICS A123(aa), Langworth p.258 [CBC #006512]

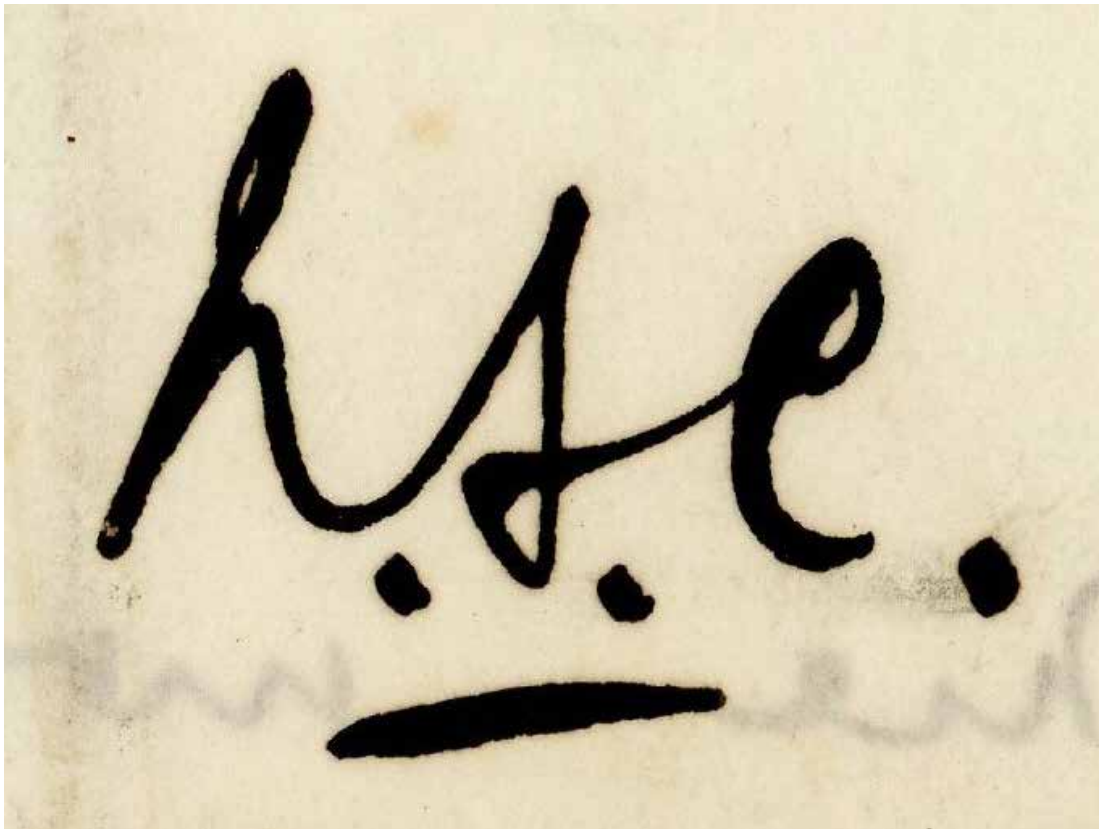
\$12,500 USD





*“....composition is essentially an artificial science.*

*To make a short sentence –  
or a series of short sentences tell –  
they should be sandwiched between  
lengthy and sonorous periods.  
The contrast is effective.”*



*The initials and excerpt are from a 31 August 1896 autograph letter in which 21-year-old Winston Churchill shares some of his earliest and clearly formative thoughts on prose composition, articulating principles that would guide his luminous literary future.*

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