

John Buchan fiction – Sale of high value books

ALL BOOKS ARE FIRST EDITIONS UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.

***Sir Quixote of the Moors.* Published by T Fisher Unwin, 1895**

Blanchard A2. Buchan's first novel, a tale of romance and tension set in the days of the Covenanters. Bound in black cloth, the front decorated with pink bricks, yellow and red flowers with green leaves and black stems. The spine bears the full title and the front cover and the front a shortened title *Sir Quixote*, in both cases in yellow lettering.

9570 As above. The corners are bumped and the spine is a little dull. Bright internally but the front hinge is cracked and a little shaky. There is a rubber stamped name on paste-down.

Reduced from £200 to £150.

221085 As above. The binding is in very good condition with just light rubbing at the ends of the spine and very lightly bumped corners. Internally excellent – the binding is NOT cracked. There is a pencilled name on the front paste-down.

Reduced from £250 to £200.

9284 As above. Lightly rubbed extremities but very bright otherwise. Very good internally but the front hinge is just beginning to crack although the binding remains firm. Pasted inside the front cover is a sheet of paper signed John Buchan Sept: 16: 1920) and the fly-leaf is signed B Consitt Boulter Novr. 1897. Taffy Boulter was one of JB's close friends at Brasenose and their rooms were on the same staircase. An exceptional association copy.

Reduced from £500 to £400.

9287 A variant of the above binding. The shortened title is on both the spine and the front cover and the bricks are orange. There is no cross-hatched border around the decorated panel. The top corners are lightly bumped and there is very occasional light foxing.

Reduced from £250 to £175.

9286 Variant binding in red cloth with the shortened title on the spine and the front. The bricks are orange, the flowers red and yellow with green and red stems and the front has a black cross-hatched border. The spine has faded to a pink shade and there are 2 ownership signatures on the fly-leaf but otherwise the book is very good.

Reduced from £250 to £175.

5974 As 9286 above. The spine is a little faded and has slight wear at the foot. The corners are rubbed and there is light staining on the rear. Internally bright and clean with just lightly browned endpapers. The hinges are cracked but the binding remains firm although very slightly cocked.

Reduced from £250 to £175.

***Scholar Gipsies.* Published by John Lane, The Bodley Head, 1896.**

Blanchard A4. Buchan's second published work, a collection of essays and stories extolling the virtues of a scholarly life lived close to nature. Beige cloth with dark brown cloth spine; boards lettered and decorated in black, spine in gold; frontispiece etching with tissue guard and 5 other etchings; top edge brown, others uncut.

6498 As above. Good, solid copy with patchy fading of the boards, one bumped corner and a faint damp stain along the rear top edge. Lightly browned endpapers but otherwise very good internally with all etchings and the tissue guard in good order.

Reduced from £180 to £130.

6935 As above. Bright and clean but head of spine worn and rubbing at the extremities. One corner bumped. Ex-library but reference not lending department. Magnificent bookplate of Wigan Free Public Library on paste-down and 3 embossed library stamps in the book.

Reduced from £125 to £100.

8615 As above, with photocopy dustwrapper. The spine is rubbed at the ends with a couple of tiny splits in the cloth at each end. The boards are worn at the corners and are lightly darkened with age. There is a very small ink (?) stain near the foot of the front board. Internally the book is very bright with no foxing or brown spots. There is a small rubber-stamped name in the top corner of the half-title. The rear hinge is cracked and the front hinge is beginning to crack but the binding is generally firm. However, there is a little looseness at the top of the front hinge - an easy repair for a binder. This copy has a photocopy of the original, extremely rare, dustwrapper. The wrapper that was copied was obviously in a fairly worn state with missing corners but was largely complete.

Reduced from £150 to £110.

8626 As above. Very slightly darkened with age and the spine ends and corners are lightly rubbed but otherwise undamaged. Internally bright with occasional brown spots. On some etchings the illustration has produced a faint 'shadow' on the opposite page. Overall a better than average copy.

Reduced from £180 to £135.

9504 As above. The covers are lightly stained and the corners lightly rubbed. The book has been re-spined using matching cloth and with the original spine laid on the new cloth. The binding has been repaired and reinforced making this a very nice copy.

Reduced from £180 to £135.

60006 As above. Faded spine with tiny splits at the ends. Occasional brown spots internally. Former owner's name on the reverse of the fly-leaf.

Reduced from £150 to £100.

5957 Second edition. Yellow cloth; brown spine with gold lettering and decoration; frontispiece and 5 other etchings by DY Cameron, all with tissue guards; top edge stained brown, others uncut. Less flamboyant than the usual binding this variant is much more scarce. Very bright externally with slightly rubbed spine ends and a little rippling of the yellow cloth. Bright and unmarked internally but for a small black mark on the last page of the publisher's adverts and lightly browned endpapers. There is a pencilled name on the reverse of the front fly-leaf. Tipped in to the front paste-down is what appears to be a small cutting from a book auction catalogue. A nice copy of a scarce binding.

Reduced from £100 to £75.

9379 Second edition. As 5957 above. Internally exactly as the first except for the words second edition on the reverse of the half-title. An exceptionally bright copy which, apart from a small black mark on the front and lightly browned fly-leaves, is virtually as new.

Reduced from £130 to £90.

9380 Second edition. Similar to 9380 above but bound in plain brown cloth with a brown cloth spine, a variation from the normal much lighter shade. The gilt on the spine has faded substantially but otherwise the book is very good.

Reduced from £100 to £75.

9568 Second edition but bound as the first edition (see above). Lightly rubbed at the extremities and the front hinge is cracked but otherwise very bright. There is a name on the fly-leaf and the bookplate of Ronald Macdonald, Portree, Isle of Skye on the paste-down. This is probably the holder of the title 6th Baron Macdonald, of Sleat as the bookplate carries one of the variations of the Clan Donald arms.

Reduced from £85 to £60.

***The Pilgrim Fathers.* Published by BH Blackwell, 1898.**

Blanchard A6. Buchan's Newdigate Prize-winning poem. 10 pages. Bound in grey card with uncut edges to the covers and pages. Sewn binding.

70342 In the original thin grey card wrappers and with uncut edges as published. The wrappers are lightly soiled /faded but largely retain their original colour. The pages are very slightly browned along the edges and there are occasional small brown spots. The sewn binding is no longer sewn and the thread has vanished. The pages are held quite securely by the wrappers and the modern transparent plastic cover. Re-sewing the binding should be a straightforward task for a bookbinder or even someone with craft skills.

Reduced from £220 to £250.

***John Burnet of Barns.* Published by John Lane, The Bodley Head, 1898.**

Blanchard A7. An early Buchan novel set in the late 17th/early 18th centuries. The action roves between Tweeddale, Edinburgh and Holland. 444pp + 12pp publisher's adverts. Green cloth with pale green lettering and decoration. The text block edges are uncut.

8983 Unusually for this title the spine has not faded and the binding remains lovely and bright. Bright internally but for lightly foxed endpapers. There is a presentation inscription on the fly-leaf and a small bookplate label on the paste-down. Overall a noticeably better than average copy.

Reduced from £180 to £130.

4188 Second edition, identical in format to the first published in the same year. The cloth has faded on the spine and around the edges of the boards but the spine is not fragile as is often the case. Slightly rubbed at the base of the spine and one or two marks but in good sound condition overall. Very bright internally and the binding remains firm although the front hinge is cracked. The front paste-down carries an attractive printed bookplate of Ellen S Dunlop, the Canadian author and editor.

Reduced from £90 to £65.

***The Half-Hearted.* Published by Isbister & Co., 1900.**

Blanchard A11. An early Buchan novel concerning a man who feels his approach to life is half-hearted and sets out to rectify that. Originally published in *Good Words*, Isbister's in-house magazine. No first editions in stock.

5056 *Good Words* magazine with all issues for 1900 bound together. Immense variety of subject matter, this magazine being somewhat lighter in tone than, for instance, Blackwood's or Chambers's. There are numerous illustrations. It includes the whole of the early John Buchan novel *The Half-Hearted* and this incorporates illustrations by Gordon Browne which did not appear when published in book form. Original binding unknown but this copy has been rebound in burgundy cloth with gold lettering on a black label. The text block edges are speckled red. Other than a lightly dusted top edge this is in fine condition throughout and belies its 125-year age being bright, clean and undamaged in every respect.

Reduced from £150 to £100.

6569 Colonial first edition, published by George Bell & Sons, 1900. This edition states, on the reverse of the half-title "This is edition is issued for circulation in India and the Colonies only." and is in Bell's Indian and Colonial Library series. It is thought to have been issued contemporaneously with the UK first edition. 375pp + 16pp publisher's catalogue. Red cloth, gold lettering. The spine sunned but the lettering remains bright. There is slight wear at the foot of the spine. Some stains but generally sound and very good internally.

Reduced from £150 to £120.

5283 Second US edition, with dustwrapper, published by Houghton Mifflin, 1928. Black boards and spine with red lettering are bright and clean. The top edge is pink and has a former owner's initials inscribed. Other edges are browned as is the half-title. Generally bright and clean internally but one or two pages have light brown stains. Ex-library with usual remnants of pockets and labels and a few stamps. Some of the pages have been clumsily cut. The binding is generally tight but the front hinge has split - this would be easily restorable. The cream dustwrapper has a line drawing in black and pale orange on the front. It is uniformly lightly soiled and has rubbing to the extremities. At some point in the past the flaps have been stuck to the paste-downs; I think that, with care this, process can be reversed.

Reduced from £100 to £70.

***The Watcher by the Threshold.* Published by Wm Blackwood & Sons, 1902.**

Blanchard A13. A collection of short stories, mostly set in Scotland and many with a supernatural element. 334pp + 32pp publisher's catalogue. Blue cloth with white lettering and a black, white and red illustration on the front; outer and lower edges uncut.

9383 Colonial edition, also published by Blackwood. Internally as above except that the pages are trimmed closer to the edges of the text giving a smaller size. Bound in green cloth with black lettering. There is some decoration on the spine and the front has a floral decorated rectangle incorporating the words "For circulation in India and British Colonies only". There is some patchy fading and the covers have some handling stains. Internally bright but one page corner has been turned. There is an ownership inscription on the fly-leaf. Extremely rare in this edition, thought to have been published simultaneously with the first.

Reduced from £200 to £140.

6010 Exactly the same as the first impression but for the words "second impression" on the title page. The spine is sunned and the lettering on front partially worn. Spine ends rubbed. There is a deep scratch on rear board. The binding is firm although the front hinge is cracked. Internally very good with just very occasional light foxing and browned endpapers.

Reduced from £300 to £210.

9166 As 6010 above. The spine is not sunned or faded but the lettering is partly worn away in places, particularly at the foot. The illustration and lettering on the front remain bright. The lower edges of the boards are lightly rubbed. Lightly browned endpapers but otherwise very bright internally.

Reduced from £350 to £260.

***A Lodge in the Wilderness.* Published by Wm Blackwood & Sons, 1906.**

Blanchard A17. A discussion of views on Imperial politics presented in the form of a country house novel. Originally published anonymously, the 2nd impression was published in 1907 crediting JB as author. 378pp + 32-page publisher's catalogue. Blue-green cloth, gold lettering, maroon endpapers. No first editions in stock.

9267 The binding is lovely and bright with sparkling gilt lettering. There is a small area near the foot of the spine which has faded slightly and the corners and spine ends are very lightly rubbed. One corner is lightly bumped. There is a tiny white mark at the top of the rear cover. Bright internally with intermittent light foxing.

Reduced from £120 to £90.

9266 Normally bound as the first edition this copy has a cheaper quality binding in light blue cloth with black lettering on the spine only. The endpapers are white, not maroon. In spite of these differences it is internally as normal for a second edition. The binding is bright with lightly rubbed extremities and a small bump on the outer edge of the rear cover. Bright internally with intermittent light foxing.

Reduced from £100 to £75.

***The Moon Endureth.* Published by Wm Blackwood & Sons, 1912.**

Blanchard A24. 10 poems and 10 stories of varied character. The previously published stories were collected from a number of sources but most of the poems had not been published before. 324pp + 64pp publisher's catalogue. Dark blue cloth; gold lettering; silver moon motif on the front and on the spine.

7025 Extremities rubbed and the lettering is a little faded and the binding is generally rather dull. The corners are lightly bumped and there is a crease in the cloth on the front board. There is some light foxing of the early leaves but otherwise the book is bright internally. There is a name on the second fly-leaf.

Reduced from £70 to £50.

9505 The corners are lightly rubbed and there is a faint partial cup ring on the front. The lettering and silver moons are unusually bright. The book has new endpapers resulting in a good, firm binding and the spine has been replaced with matching cloth with the original spine laid on top. Bright internally but for occasional light foxing. There is an ownership inscription on the second (original) fly-leaf.

Reduced from £100 to £65.

6941 Hodder & Stoughton large format Yellow Jacket edition, with dustwrapper. Published 1935. A rare title in the Yellow Jacket series. 307pp Light blue cloth; dark blue lettering; illustration of man in puritan-style hat on front board. Lightly rubbed spine ends. Inscription on fly-leaf. The dustwrapper has an illustration of a man's head with a crescent moon superimposed. It is lightly soiled and has some creasing at the top of the rear panel. There are 3 small scuff marks on the front and 2 small closed tears on the top edge. The number 63 is written in blue ink on the front panel (on a dark grey area) and the spine.

Reduced from £60 to £40.

***The Thirty-Nine Steps.* Published by Wm Blackwood & Sons, 1915.**

Buchan's iconic novel of pre-WW1 espionage. No first editions in stock.

9492 Early US Popular edition with dustwrapper. In the early part of the 20th century Grosset & Dunlap published Popular editions of novels, often quite recently issued, in a lower-cost binding. This edition is very similar in its binding (dark red cloth) and layout to the US first edition, published by George Doran, but has black lettering instead of gilt. After the novel itself there is an 8-page catalogue. Although this edition is undated; there is a pencil inscription on the fly-leaf dated 1921. All the titles listed on the back of the d/w were published before 1920. The book is in very good condition with just slight rubbing at the ends of the spine. The d/w has a piece missing at the top of the spine (including the title), a small chip at the foot of the front joint and some rubbing along the folds. Early copies of this title with a d/w are extremely rare.

Reduced from £200 to £140.

***The Power-House.* Published by Wm Blackwood & Sons, 1916.**

Blanchard A35 The first Edward Leithen novel in which he comes up against a sinister anarchist. 238pp Red cloth, black lettering.

6841 This copy is in much better condition than is usually the case with this cheaply produced wartime publication. The spine is lightly faded and there is a little fading around the edges of the boards which otherwise remain bright and clean. One corner is bumped. Internally there is just very slight browning around the page margins. The binding is slightly cocked.

Reduced from £60 to £40.

221001 Popular Edition, undated. A reprint of Buchan's first Edward Leithen novel in a similar format to the first edition. A few very small water spots on the front but otherwise very good throughout. There is a gift inscription on the fly-leaf and a small bookshop label on the front paste-down. The exceptionally rare dustwrapper has a similar illustration to the first edition (men at a dinner table and shadowy horsemen in the background) but is printed in dark blue and white rather than full colour. Some brown speckles around the edges and a couple of tiny nicks and chips around the edges and extremities. Where the price was shown (front and spine) it has been neatly punched out leaving a circular hole in each case. This was a pointless exercise as the rear cover carries a list of Blackwood's 1/- net Popular Novels including this title.

Reduced from £85 to £65.

***The Island of Sheep* by Cadmus and Harmonia.**

Published by Hodder & Stoughton, 1919 and by Houghton Mifflin, 1920.

Blanchard A48. Written by John & Susan Buchan this is a political symposium in the guise of a country house novel. The UK edition is virtually unobtainable, with only a handful of copies known and the US edition is also quite rare. The US edition has 170pp, light blue paper-covered boards with bright blue lettering and black and yellow silhouette illustration. Yellow cloth spine with black lettering.

All the books listed below are US first editions.

5955 Internally very bright with slight creasing to a few top corners near the front. 2 leaves have ragged edges, almost certainly the result of a mishap when slitting the page edges when new. There is a name on the front fly-leaf. Externally there are light damp stains on the front board and spine.

Reduced from £225 to £165.

7196 Quite clean but the spine is sunned and the binding slightly cocked. The corners are rubbed, one being more heavily worn. Bright internally with occasional light foxing. The front fly-leaf is missing.

Reduced from £150 to £110.

7540 The corners are worn and the spine is lightly sunned. One of the two front fly-leaves is missing and the other has an ownership inscription. Internally the book is bright and clean.

Reduced from £180 to £130.

7624 The corners are lightly rubbed and the fly-leaf has a tiny remnant of some sort of adhesive label. Otherwise very good throughout.

Reduced from £225 to £165.

9194 The spine is a little darkened but otherwise the book is in very good condition. There is an inscription on the fly-leaf and also a small private library label. The book comes with a good quality facsimile d/w.

Reduced from £225 to £165.

***The Blanket of the Dark.* Published by Hodder & Stoughton, 1931.**

Blanchard A91. A stirring tale of rebellion in the days of Henry VIII. 314pp + 6pp publisher's adverts. Dark green cloth; gold lettering; gold JB monogram on front; endpaper maps.

60003 First edition with dustwrapper. Very bright throughout. The dustwrapper has some small chips and tears on the front and a lightly soiled rear panel. The lightly darkened spine has a bright area where, I think, a label has been stuck over the price at some time in the past.

Reduced from £150 to £110.

***A Prince of the Captivity.* Published by Hodder & Stoughton, 1933.**

Blanchard A99. One of Buchan's later novels charting the life of Adam Melfort after he takes the blame for his wife's fraud. It also expresses Buchan's antipathy to fascism. 383 pp Dark green cloth with gold lettering and JB monogram on the front.

8225 First edition with dustwrapper. Corners slightly rubbed and the bottom inch of the spine has faded. Very light foxing on the endpapers and occasional brown spots but overall very good internally. The d/w is worn and has small splits at the corners (one with an old adhesive tape repair) and the bottom inch of the lightly browned spine is missing.

Reduced from £100 to £75.

***The House of the Four Winds.* Published by Hodder & Stoughton, 1936.**

Blanchard A111. The final Dickson McCunn in which the retired provision merchant once again gets involved in Evallonian politics. As before, the result is a blend of high adventure and whimsical humour. 318pp Green cloth, gold lettering; gold JB monogram on front. All copies below are first editions with dustwrapper.

6481 Bright and clean with just a faint scuff mark on the front. Binding very slightly cocked. The pictorial dustwrapper is complete and has had some professional repairs to a high standard. The spine is lightly sunned as is the rear panel. However, the colours on the front panel remain unusually bright.

Reduced from £120 to £75.

8910 Very bright throughout. Lightly rubbed at the head of the spine. 3 tiny impact marks on the rear cover. Small bookseller label on the fly-leaf. The dustwrapper has a lightly soiled rear panel. There are some neat, unobtrusive professional repairs. Bright, vibrant colours.

Reduced from £100 to £75.

9185 Bright and undamaged but for 3 small, faint scuff marks on the front cover and very occasional brown spots internally. The pictorial dustwrapper has a lightly browned spine and the white rear panel has fingermarks. The colours on the front remain bright.

Reduced from £100 to £75.

***The Island of Sheep.* Published by Hodder & Stoughton.**

Blanchard A115. The final Richard Hannay novel, a fast-paced adventure which reaches an exciting climax on a Scandinavian island. 318pp Green cloth; gold lettering; gold JB monogram on front; front endpaper map.

4365 Clean and bright internally. Boards have some stains and abrasions. The dustwrapper has a number of nicks and small chips but is substantially complete and intact. There is a signature in pencil (indelible?) on the rear panel.

Reduced from £75 to £50.

8419 One corner bumped and some small water marks on the covers. The illustrated dustwrapper is lightly soiled (it is largely white) and has a one-inch diameter brown mark on the back. The bottom 2 inches of the spine is missing although the wrapper has been backed with a photocopy of a complete wrapper which improves the appearance. There are 3 closed tears around the top edge.

Reduced from £50 to £35.

8630 Bright and clean with sharp corners and just some light scuff marks on the rear. The illustrated dustwrapper is lightly soiled (it is largely white) and is lightly creased in places. It has been professionally repaired at some time in the past.

Reduced from £80 to £50.