

BEAUX BOOKS #5



CREATIVE
LIVES



Every age has its celebrities; personalities that inspire, create and capture the imagination. Memoirs, diaries, biographies and autobiographies are the written record of these personalities, preserving their lives on paper.

Creative Lives is a short list of books on the lives of twenty artists, writers and muses of the twentieth century. The list includes Cecil Beaton, The Marchesa Casati, Nancy Mitford, Patrick Leigh Fermor, and Coco Chanel. As always, there are some old favourites and some new discoveries.

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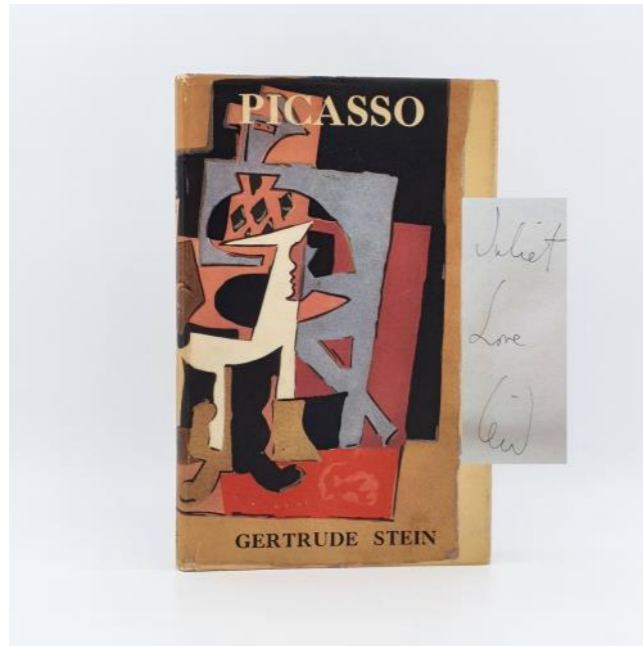
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Gertrude Stein's biography of Picasso, inscribed by Cecil Beaton to Lady Juliet Duff



Picasso [INSCRIBED BY CECIL BEATON TO JULIET DUFF]

Gertrude Stein.

B. T. Batsford Ltd. London. October, 1938. First English edition. First published in French by Librairie Flury earlier in 1938. Hardback; red cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. Inscribed by Cecil Beaton to Juliet Duff in ink on the front free endpaper - 'Juliet / Love / Cecil'. 56 pages. 61 hors texte illustrations, 8 in colour. English. 225x145mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

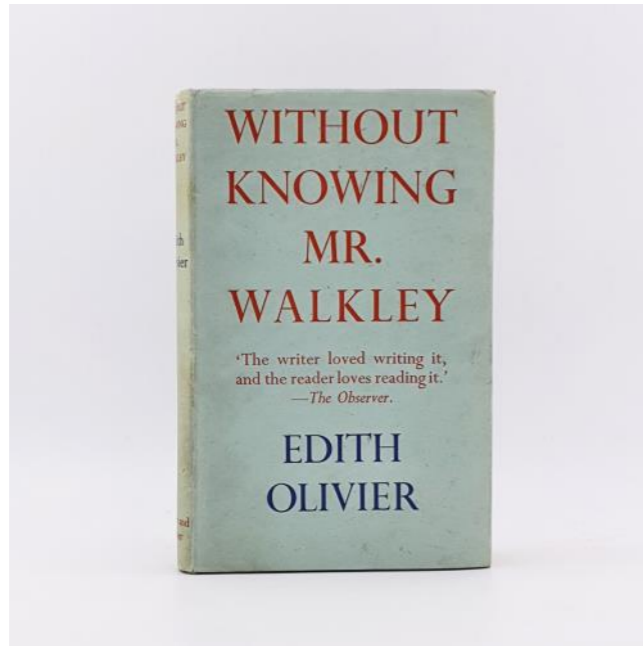
£250

Gertrude Stein's short text is a mix of factual history and personal reflections on her own relationship with Picasso as friend and early patron. Cecil Beaton, whose portraits of both Picasso and Stein are reproduced in the book, has inscribed the book to his friend - 'Juliet Love Cecil', with a small ornamental flourish.

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A memoir from Edith Olivier, touching on her life in Wilton and the people she knew



Without Knowing Mr. Walkley. Personal Memories

Edith Olivier

Faber and Faber. London. 1943. Reprint. First published in 1938. Hardback; blue cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. 320 pages. 16 b&w hors texte plates. English. 210x140mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

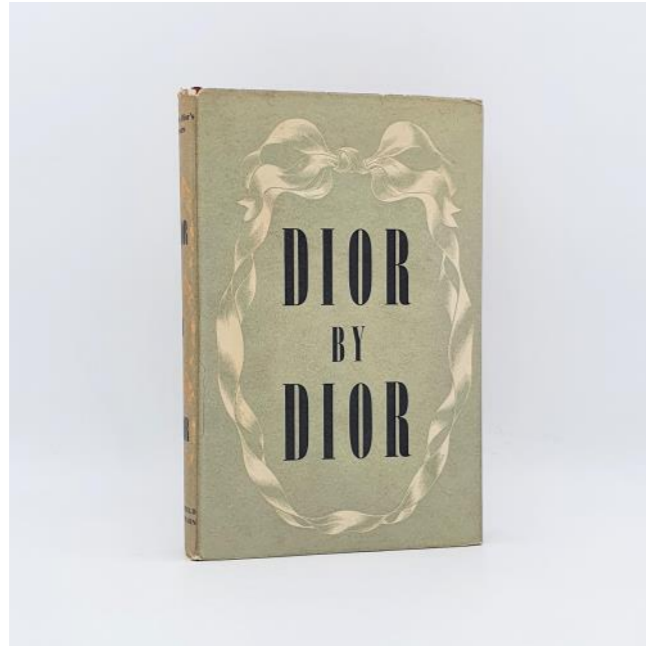
£35

Olivier's book begins with her upbringing and youth at the Wilton Rectory, then her life away from Wilton and her work with the Women's Land Army during World War One, and finally her return to Wilton and the Daye House and her friendship with Rex Whistler. It was during these years that she played hostess to numerous literary and artistic figures, and pen portraits are given for Elinor Wylie, Stephen Tennant, David Cecil, Osbert Sitwell, Siegfried Sassoon, Ottoline Morrell and others.

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The first English edition of Dior's autobiography



Dior by Dior. The Autobiography of Christian Dior

Christian Dior. Translated by Antonia Fraser.

Weidenfeld and Nicolson. London. 1957. First English edition. Hardback; maroon cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. 218 pages. 30 hors-texte b&w photographs. English. 225x150mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

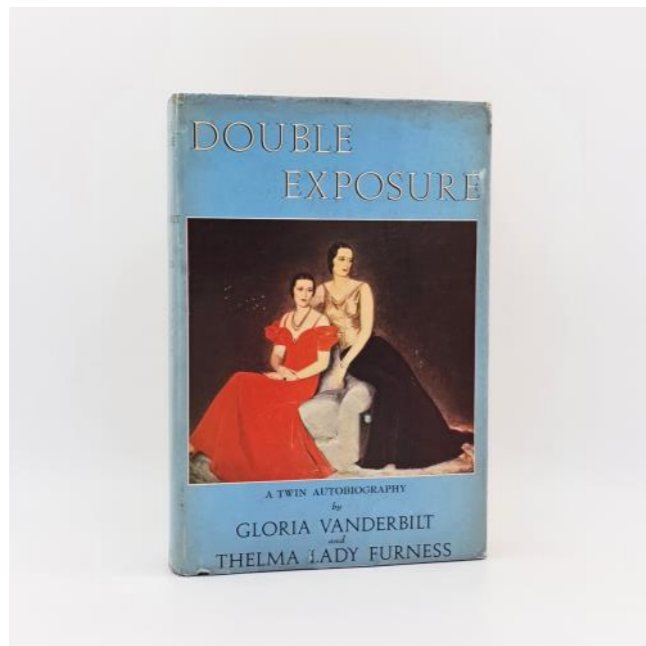
£80

The autobiography of Christian Dior, the couturier who revolutionised fashion in the 1940s with the 'New Look'. Dior focusses his writing on his years as a fashion designer and describes the internal workings of the House of Dior, providing a fascinating insight into the world of haute couture. He also talks about his early life and the artistic career that led to him opening his own fashion house.

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A dual-autobiography by identical twin sisters Gloria Vanderbilt and Thelma Furness



Double Exposure. A Twin Autobiography

Gloria Vanderbilt and Thelma Lady Furness.

David McKay Company. New York. 1958. First edition. Hardback; blue cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. xii, 369 pages. Hors texte b&w plates. English. 220x150mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

£140

Gloria and Thelma were great beauties and epitomised the International Set of 1920s America. Their lives and loves were followed eagerly in the press. *Double Exposure* was intended to put the record straight on topics such as the custody battle for Gloria's daughter, the greater known Gloria, and Thelma's relationships with the Prince of Wales and Aly Khan.

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A complete set of Cecil Beaton's Diaries



Cecil Beaton's Diaries [A Complete Set of the Six Diaries]

Cecil Beaton.

Weidenfeld and Nicolson. London. 1961-1978. All British editions. All first editions, the first four being second impressions. 6 volumes. Cloth-bound hardbacks, dust jackets. 387; 352; 248; 231; 190; 164 pages. All volumes contain hors-texte b&w photographic plates. English. 220x150mm. Near fine, in near fine dust jackets.

£650

Beaton's six diaries span 52 years and include reflections on the most significant cultural events and people of the era. From his youth & ascent into society to his work as a War artist, from his travels across the globe to his relationships with famous actors, models, designers, artists and personalities, the diaries provide a rich flow of anecdotes and opinions. Beaton's glorious wit and creative flair flow through each page.

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'Mad, bad and dangerous to know' - a biography of Brian Howard



Brian Howard. Portrait of a Failure

Edited by Marie-Jacqueline Lancaster. Introduction by Maurice Richardson.
Anthony Blond Ltd. London. 1968. First edition. Hardback; blue cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. xx, 639 pages. Hors-texte b&w plates. English. 235x160mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

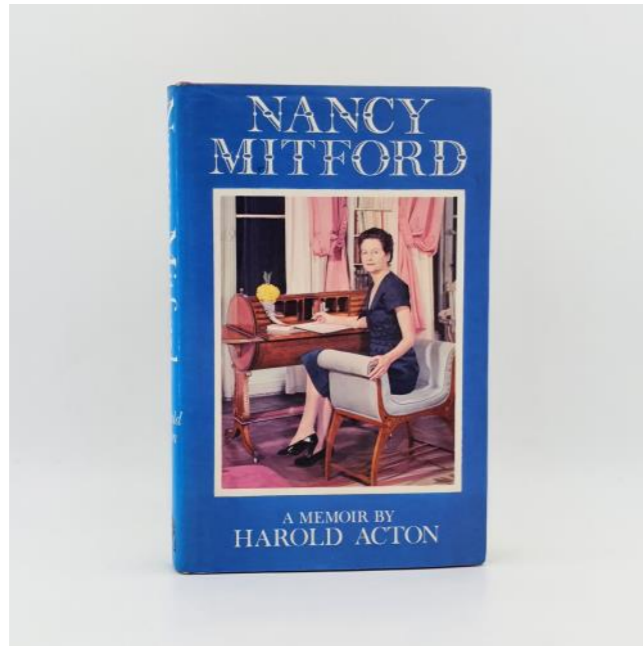
£140

A scarce first edition of the biography of Brian Howard, one of the wittiest and most complex of the Bright Young Things. Howard was at Eton and Oxford; he was a poet, a practical joker and a magnificent party host. Evelyn Waugh may well have based his character of Anthony Blanche on him. Sadly he never achieved success with his poetry and his life ended with suicide in 1958. The biography includes reprints of several of Howard's poems.

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Harold Acton's biographical memoir of Nancy Mitford



Nancy Mitford. A Memoir

Harold Acton.

Hamish Hamilton. London. 1975. First edition. Hardback; pink cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. xvi, 252 pages. 12 b&w hors texte plates. English. 220x145mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

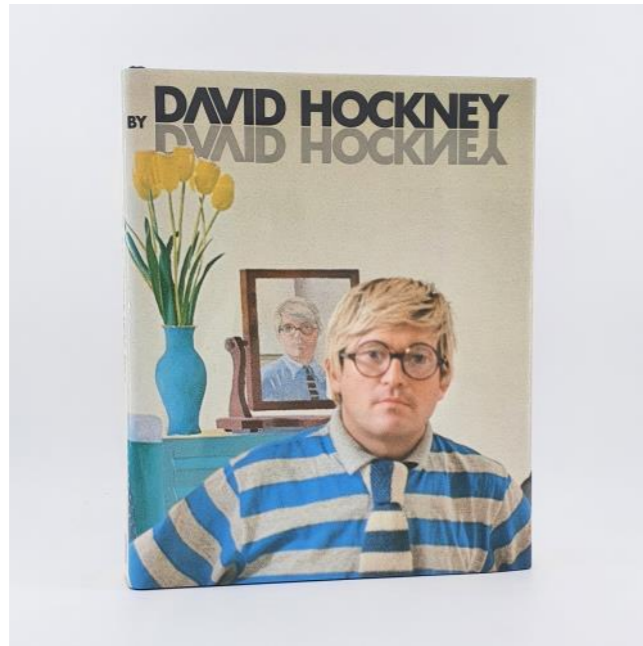
£25

Nancy Mitford never wrote an autobiography, illness got in the way in the last few years of her life, but she did write copious letters to her friends. Acton draws heavily on these letters for his biography, bringing to life the author through her own words and capturing her wit and intelligence.

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David Hockney provides the commentary to his life and work



David Hockney by David Hockney

David Hockney. Edited by Nikos Stangos. Introduction by Henry Geldzahler.
Thames and Hudson. London. 1976. First edition. Green cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. 312 pages.
With 434 illustrations, 60 in colour. English. 275x220mm. Near fine, in very good dust jacket.

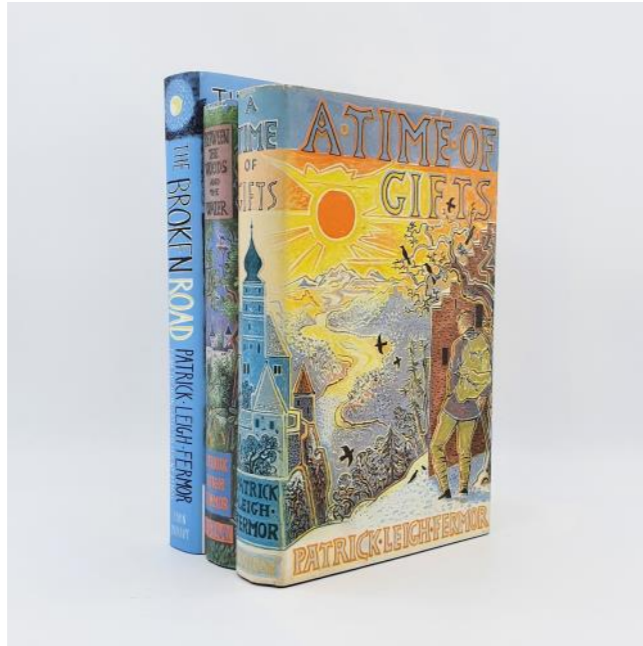
£45

David Hockney provides the commentary to his life and work so far in this autobiographical volume. Published first in 1976 *David Hockney by David Hockney* contains the artist's own account of his upbringing, education, travels to California and Paris, his thoughts on art, the development of his style and anecdotes about himself and his friends. The text is accompanied by illustrations of almost all his paintings and graphic work to date.

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The complete trilogy recounting Patrick Leigh Fermor's journey on foot across Europe



A Time of Gifts; Between the Woods and the Water; The Broken Road

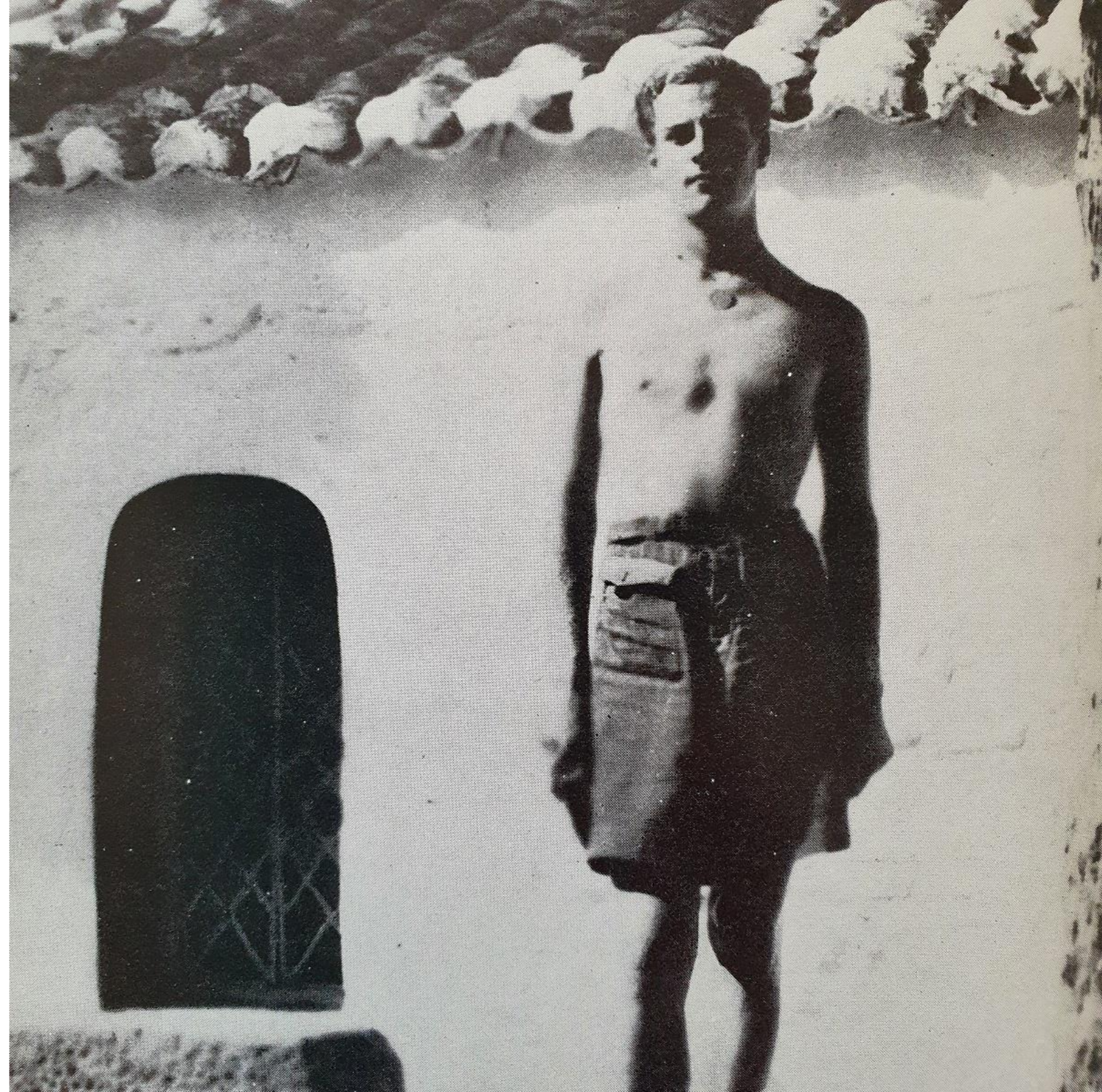
Patrick Leigh Fermor.

John Murray. London. 1977; 1986; 2013. All first editions. Hardback; navy cloth-bound boards, dust jackets. 291; 248; xxii, 362 pages. English. 240x160mm. Near fine, in near fine dust jackets.

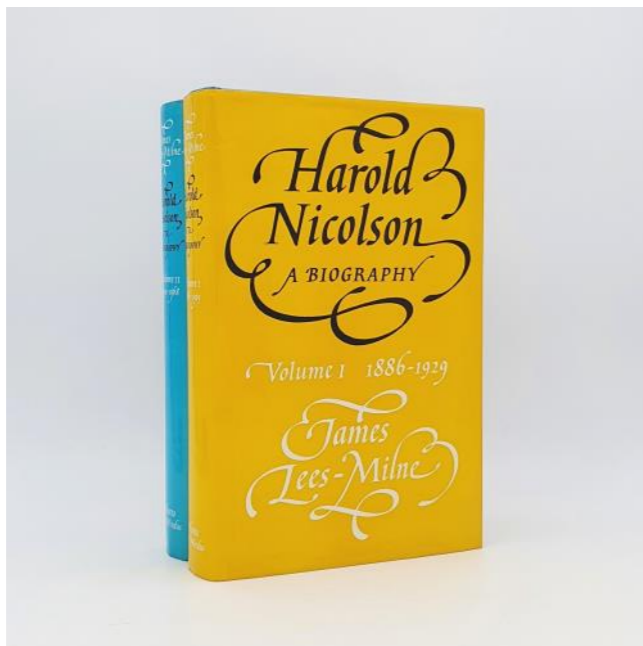
£350

Patrick Leigh Fermor departed from the Hook of Holland in December 1933 aged 18 and arrived in Constantinople in January 1935. His books on this journey detail life in Central Europe before the Second World War and Communism made their mark. The final volume of the trilogy was published posthumously using Fermor's diaries and an early draft, and was edited by Colin Thubron and Artemis Cooper. With the jackets designed by John Craxton and Ed Kluz.

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James Lees-Milne's two-volume biography of Harold Nicolson



Harold Nicolson. A Biography. Volume I 1886-1929 & Volume II 1930-1968

James Lees-Milne.

Chatto & Windus. London. 1980 & 1981. First editions. Hardbacks; blue cloth-bound boards, dust jackets. xii, 429 & xii, 403 pages. Frontispiece and 22 hors texte b&w plates. English. 225x145mm. Near fine, in near fine dust jackets.

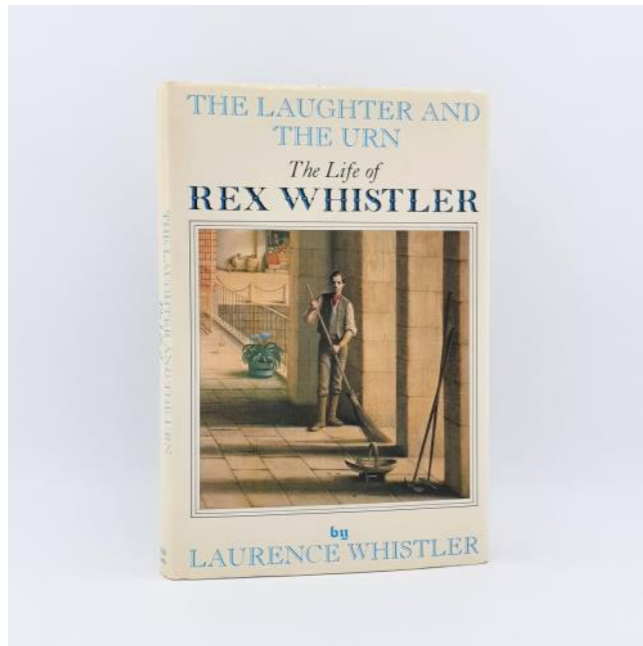
£80

Nicolson had an eventful life, moving between many different spheres. Lees-Milne's text covers his childhood and youth, his time as a diplomat and as an M.P., his work as a writer and a journalist, his friendships with other literary and artistic figures, and his marriage to Vita Sackville-West and their creation of the Sissinghurst garden.

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Laurence Whistler's richly-researched account of the life of his brother Rex



The Laughter and the Urn. The Life of Rex Whistler

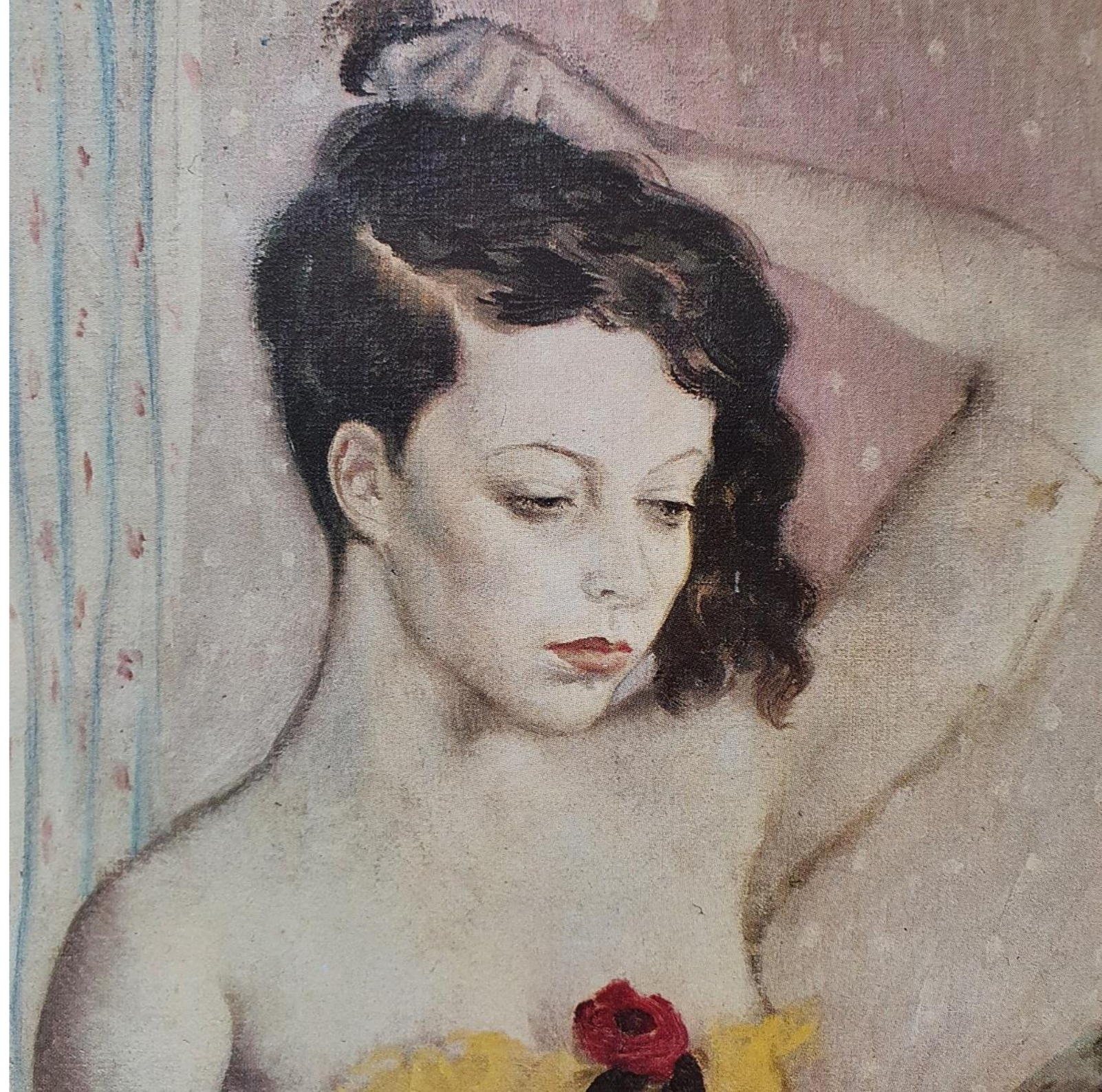
Laurence Whistler.

Weidenfeld and Nicolson. London. 1985. First edition. Hardback; blue cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. xiv, 321 pages. Text illustrations and 42 colour and monochrome illustrations on hors texte plates. English. 240x165mm. Good, in very good dust jacket.

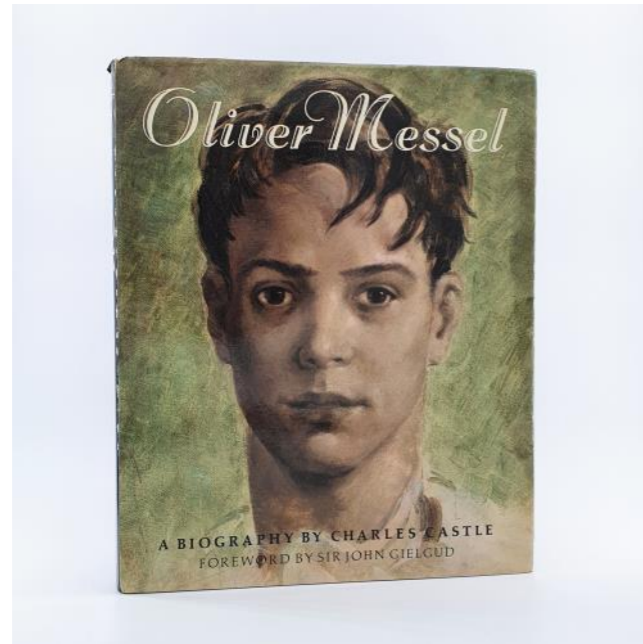
£25

Rex Whistler's life was tragically cut short in 1944 whilst in action during WW2. Laurence made a huge effort to ensure that Rex's work was recorded and enjoyed by future generations. Alongside this biography he also wrote *His Life and His Drawings* and *The Work of Rex Whistler*. Rex's varied work is discussed alongside his life and his friendships with figures including Edith Olivier, Cecil Beaton and Siegfried Sassoon.

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An illustrated biography of Messel's life, work, theatre designs and interiors



Oliver Messel. A Biography

Charles Castle. Foreword by Sir John Gielgud.

Thames & Hudson. London. 1986. First edition. Green cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. 264 pages. With 145 illustrations, 20 in colour. English. 280x235mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

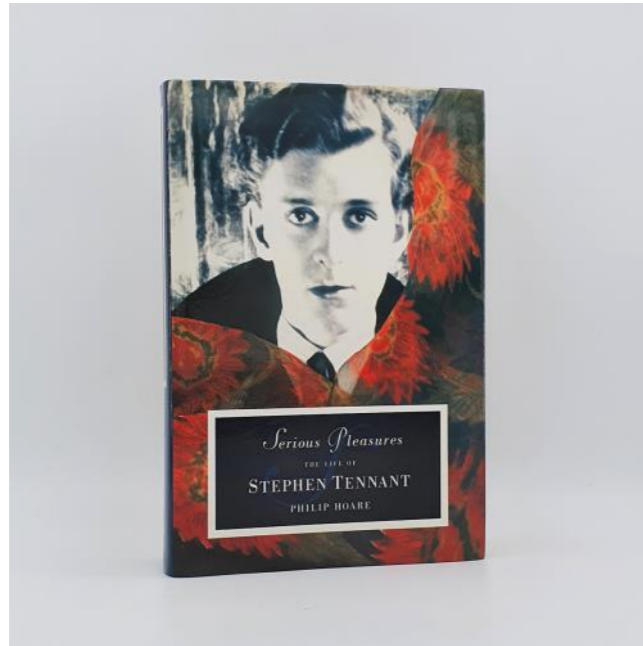
£85

Castle's biography of the life and work of Oliver Messel. The book examines Messel's set and costume designs for theatre, ballet, opera and film, generously illustrating his work with archival photographs. It also looks at his personal life and his interior decoration in Barbados and Mustique. The text is based extensively on autobiographical notes Messel left at the time of his death and is bolstered by contributions from friends, family and colleagues.

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Philip Hoare's definitive biography of Stephen Tennant



Serious Pleasures. The Life of Stephen Tennant

Philip Hoare.

Hamish Hamilton. London. 1990. First edition. Black cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. xvi, 464 pages. Several hors-texte black-and-white plates. English. 240x165mm. Very good in very good dust jacket.

£75

Serious Pleasures covers the whole of Tennant's long and eclectic life, including his precocious childhood, the years as a Bright Young Thing and his friendship with Whistler and Beaton, his love affair with Siegfried Sassoon, his writings and art, and his final years spent as a recluse in Wilsford Manor where all manner of stars made the pilgrimage to his bedside.

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A literary hoax by William Boyd



Nat Tate. An American Artist 1928-1960 [SIGNED]

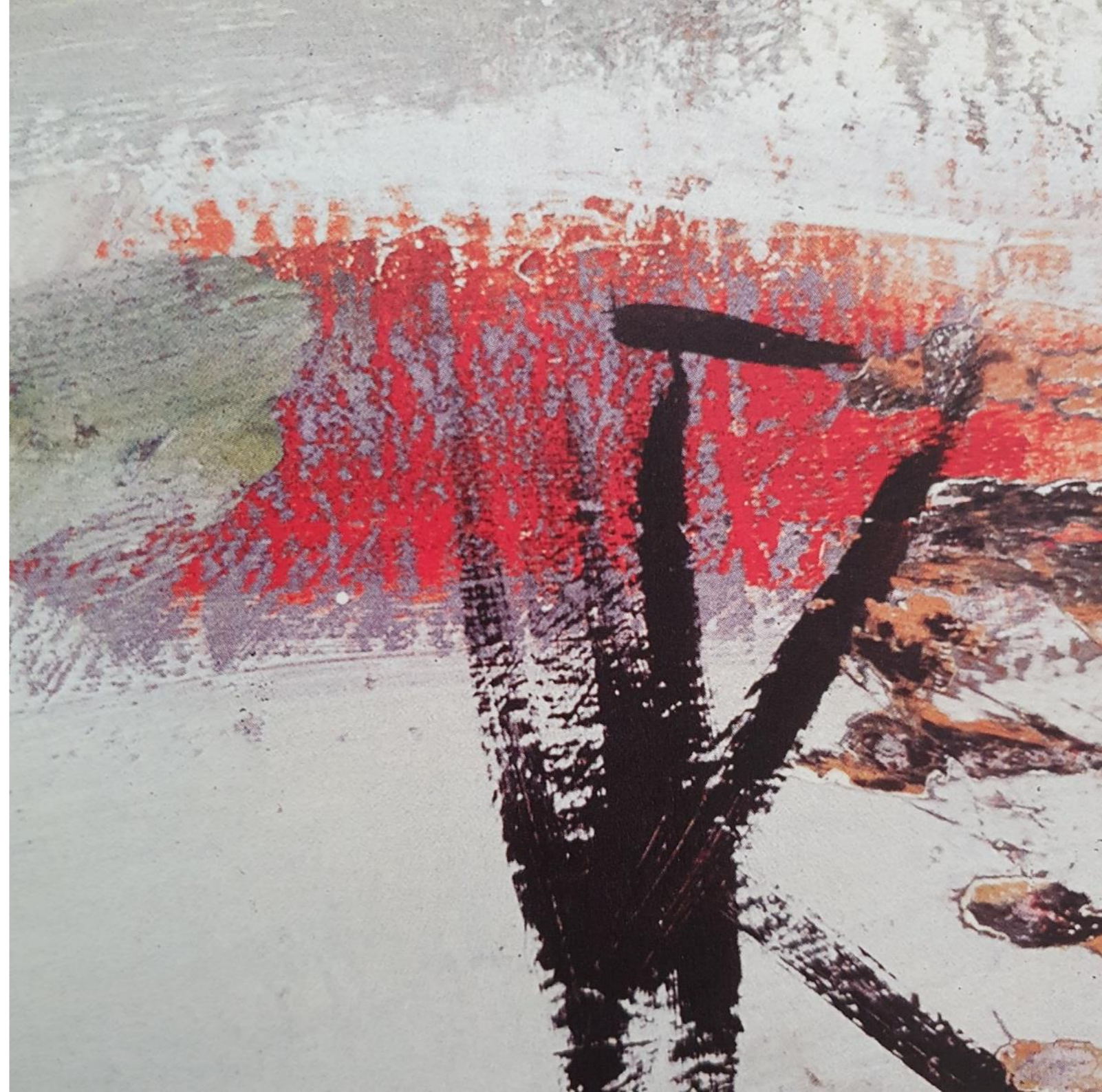
William Boyd.

21 Publishing Ltd. Cambridge. 1998. First edition. Hardback; green cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. Signed by Boyd in ink to title-page. 72 pages. Colour and b&w illustrations. English. 210x160mm. Fine, in fine dust jacket.

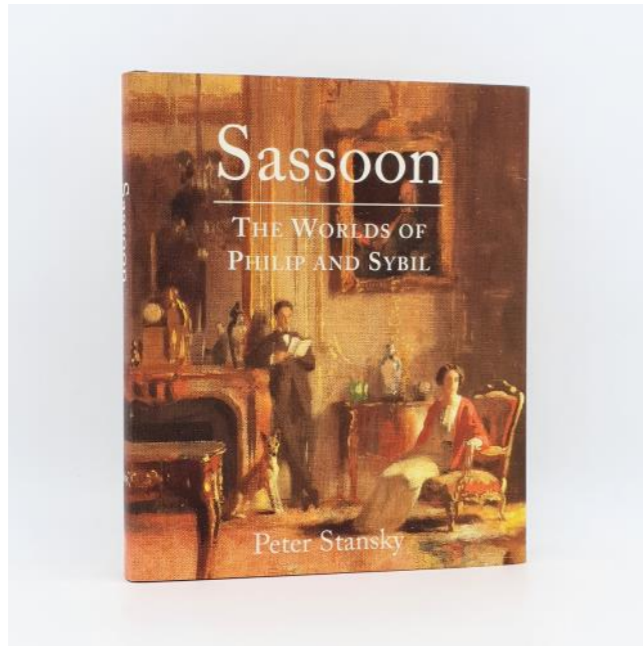
£85

William Boyd's biography of the American abstract expressionist Nat Tate, forgotten by the art world since his early death and ripe for re-evaluation. The biography was in fact a literary hoax, with Boyd himself having created many of the artworks featured in the book. David Bowie, Gore Vidal and John Richardson were all in on the joke. The hoax calls to mind the Bruno Hat affair of the Bright Young Things.

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A vivid, illustrated study of two siblings; their lives and the world they inhabited



Sassoon. The Worlds of Philip and Sybil

Peter Stansky.

Yale University Press. New Haven & London. 2003. First edition, first printing. Cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. xiv, 295 pages. 71 colour and b&w illustrations. English. 240x200mm. Fine; an excellent copy.

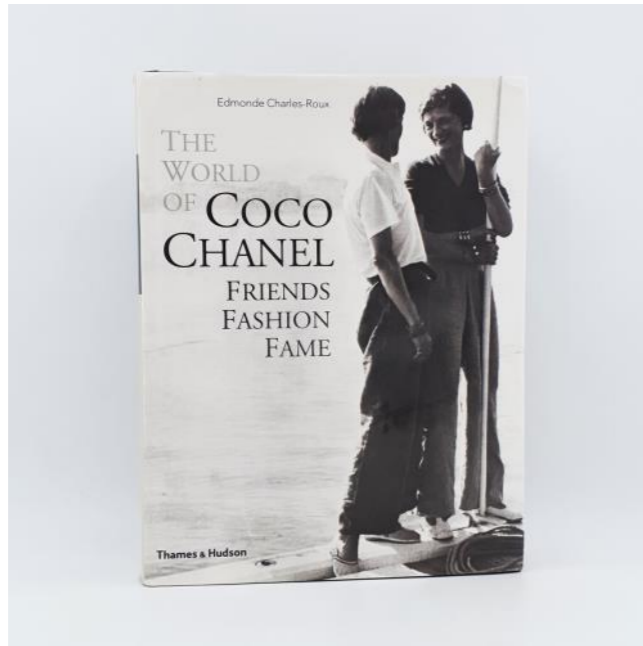
£50

Stansky examines Philip Sassoon's various roles as a society host, a military and political figure, and a patron of the artist. Alongside he discusses Sibyl's transformation from debutante to chatelaine and restorer of Houghton Hall as the Marchioness of Cholmondeley.

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Edmonde Charles-Roux's visual biography of Coco Chanel



The World of Coco Chanel. Friends, Fashion, Fame

Edmonde Charles-Roux.

Thames & Hudson. London. 2005. First English language edition. First published in French in 1979. Hardback; black cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. 384 pages. With over 400 colour illustrations. English. 265x205mm.

Near fine, in very good dust jacket.

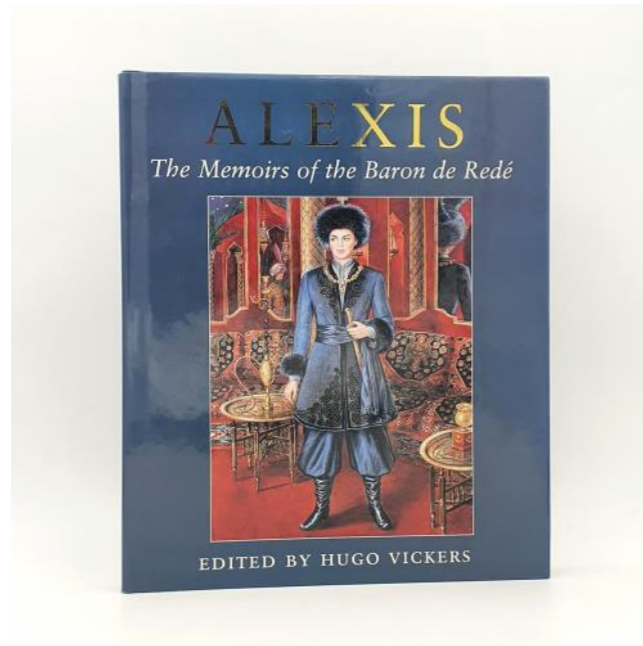
£45

Chanel changed how women dressed in the twentieth century and worked with many of the greatest artists of the time. Her eventful life is told here through photos and art from the archives, with accompanying text. Charles-Roux knew Chanel personally and was editor-in-chief of French Vogue.

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The scarce memoirs of the stylish society figure, the Baron de Redé



Alexis. The Memoirs of the Baron de Redé

Alexis, Baron de Redé. Edited by Hugo Vickers.

Privately published by the Estate of the late Baron de Redé. Printed by The Dovecote Press. England. 2005. First edition, third printing. Hardback, dust jacket. 174 pages. Illustrated throughout with archival images from Redé's own collection. English. 260x220mm. Near fine, in near fine dust jacket.

£280

These posthumously-published memoirs, edited by Hugo Vickers, talk about the Baron de Redé's life within the beau monde and include cameo appearances from many great artistic and social figures, including Salvador Dali, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Yves Saint Laurent, Brigitte Bardot, Rudolf Nureyev, Maria Callas and Elizabeth Taylor.

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"I want to be a living work of art"



The Marchesa Casati. Portraits of a Muse

Scot D. Ryerson & Michael Orlando Yaccarino.

Abrams. New York. 2009. First edition, first printing. Hardback; black decorated boards, dust jacket. 240 pages. 80 colour and 120 b&w illustrations. English. 285x240mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

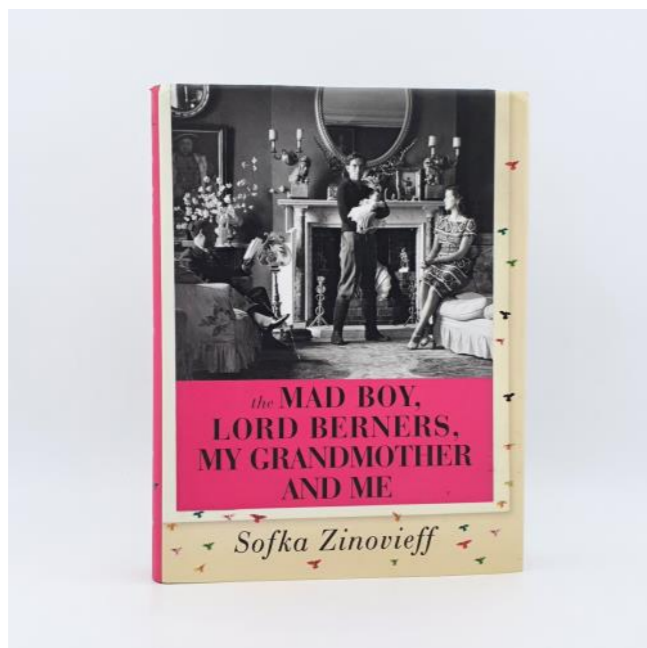
£350

A visual biography of the Marchesa Casati and an illustrated study of the art she inspired. To this day Casati remains an intoxicating muse. Her daring personal style inspired artists and designers throughout the twentieth century and continues to inspire today. She was painted by Boldini and Augustus John, photographed by Man Ray and Cecil Beaton, dressed by Fortuny, Poiret and Erté. Personal family mementoes, paintings, sculptures, drawings and photographs illustrate her life and influence.

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A part-memoir, part-biography of Lord Berners and Faringdon House



The Mad Boy, Lord Berners, My Grandmother and Me

Sofka Zinovieff.

Jonathan Cape. London. 2014. First edition, first printing. Hardback; black boards, dust jacket. xii, 436 pages. Illustrated throughout in colour and b&w. English. 240x185mm. Near fine, in near fine dust jacket.

£70

Sofka Zinovieff inherited Faringdon from Robert Heber-Percy, who himself had inherited the home from Lord Berners. Zinovieff's grandmother is the relative in the title, a woman named Jennifer Fry who unexpectedly married 'The Mad Boy' whilst pregnant. Woven together are the stories of the author, Lord Berners, Heber-Percy and Fry, all linked by the stones of Faringdon House.

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Minoo Dinshaw's biography of the enigmatic English historian Steven Runciman



Outlandish Knight. The Byzantine World of Steven Runciman

Minoo Dinshaw.

Allen Lane. London. 2016. First edition, second printing. Hardback; red cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. xvi, 768 pages. 42 b&w illustrations on hors texte plates. English. 240x165mm. Near fine, in near fine dust jacket.

£40

Steven Runciman was widely travelled, spoke many languages and frequently befriended members of the world's royal dynasties. During his time in Cambridge he became good friends with Cecil Beaton and despite appearing occasionally with the Bright Young Things he never fully entered their fold. Several of Beaton's photographs are reproduced.

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