

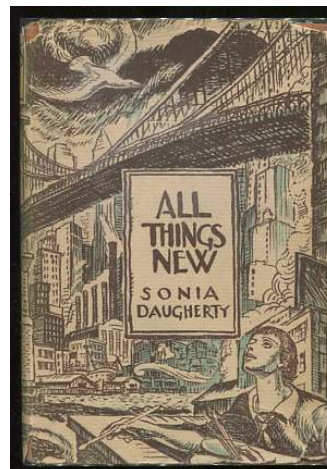
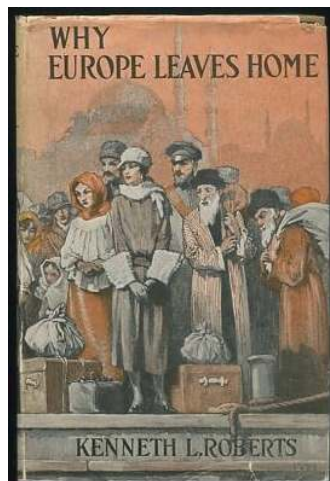
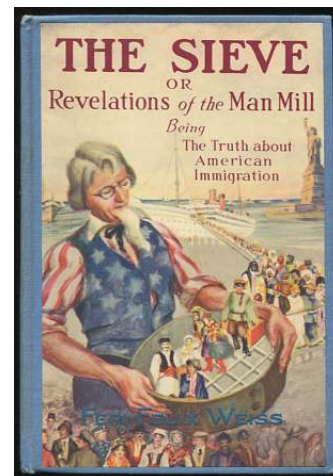
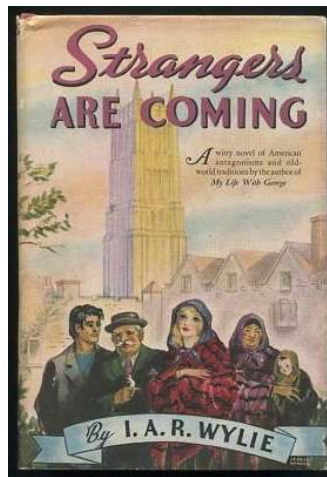
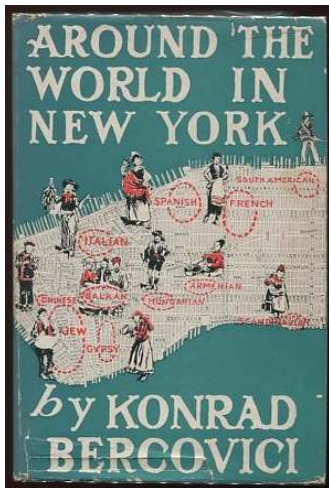
ReadInk

Los Angeles, California

Catalog Number 4

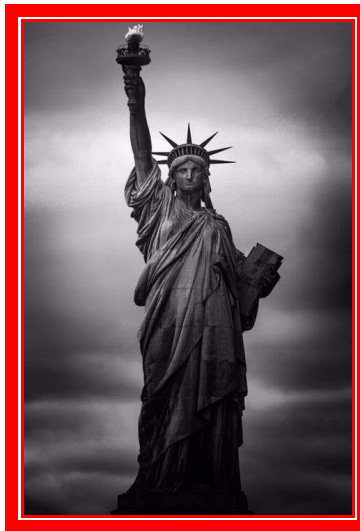
BOOKING PASSAGE

Books on the Immigrant Experience



ReadInk

Howard Prouty, prop.



www.readinkbooks.com

2261 West 21st Street
Los Angeles, California 90018
howard.prouty@att.net
(310) 991-3391

is pleased to present
A Special Catalog
(originally) for a
Special Book Fair



The 2025 (57th) edition of the California International Antiquarian Book Fair was scheduled to spotlight the collective and individual experiences of the millions of human beings who have made their way to America's shores throughout our country's history – sometimes in desperation and fear, but always with an element of hope for a better life: a life of freedom, opportunity, prosperity, tolerance, or maybe just survival. To support this theme, and to honor the stories of these people (including, quite possibly, your own forebears), ReadInk (just I) had assembled a collection of books that present both fictional and nonfictional depictions of immigrants' hopes and dreams, struggles and fears, triumphs and tragedies.

Unfortunately, the book fair was not to be, and for the most terrible of reasons: the outbreak, in early January, of the devastating wildfires that ravaged two major neighborhoods in the Los Angeles area – one of them Altadena, a beautiful and historic area located just above Pasadena. The fires forced thousands of people to flee their homes, and soon the Pasadena Convention Center (the established venue for the fair) was pressed into service as an evacuation center – which, in the grand scheme of things, is a much more worthy and necessary purpose than even the most magnificent book fair could ever be. So I'm not complaining; by contrast, my disappointment is nothing.

But: I had been gathering books on the subject of immigration for years, and had planned to “someday” issue a full-fledged catalog on the topic – so when the book fair theme was announced, I saw it as a perfect opportunity to present those books in a different way: in a smallish catalog, for distribution at the show, highlighting just a few dozen out of the nearly 200 books I had acquired, with the remainder to be offered for sale in my booth. That more streamlined catalog was just nearing completion at the time the fires broke out, and by the time it was ready to be printed, the book fair had been cancelled. What to do?

Rather than scrap the thing, I decided to expand it – to almost double its original size – in order to include just about all the “other” books that I was going to bring to the fair. This has made for a kind of formatting schizophrenia between the first half of the catalog and the “expansion.” (You'll notice.) And a number of the page footers in the first section make reference to Booth 212, my booth-that-never-was; just ignore them.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the available (i.e. unsold) books in this catalog may be viewed and purchased on my website, where they will be found under just two categories: “Immigration: Fiction” and “Immigration: “Non-Fiction.”

TERMS OF SALE

All items are subject to prior sale; any book is returnable for any reason whatsoever, for a full refund; just don't abuse my good nature. I accept checks, all major credit cards, and PayPal. If you wish to mail a check, please confirm the availability of your desired book(s) by email or telephone first. For the first sixty days of this catalog's lifespan, all items listed herein will also appear on my website exclusively (and of course in the printed version of this catalog).

There will be **no charge** for Media Mail shipping to U.S. customers. (Priority Mail is extra, however.) Packaging will be superb, in either case. California residents will be charged appropriate sales tax.

All books offered are first editions/printings unless otherwise noted. Descriptive entries herein are usually trimmed-down versions of their online counterparts, which often contain additional enlightening tidbits about a book's content, history, significance, or general wonderfulness. Detailed condition notes on all books can also be found in the website listings.

Welcome to America! There will be a test.

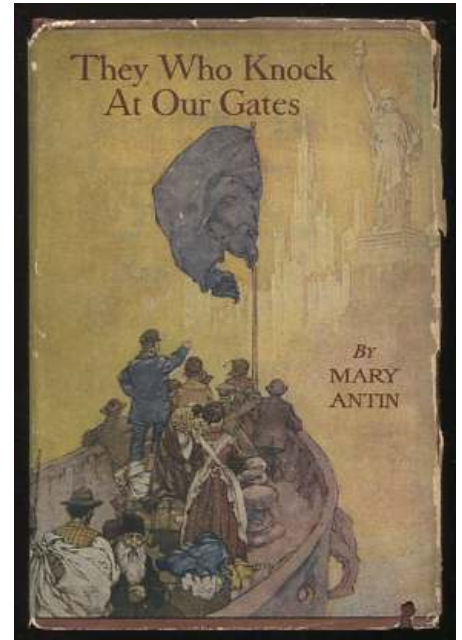
Antin, Mary. *They Who Knock At Our Gates: A Complete Gospel of Immigration.*

Boston/New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1914. First edition.

A passionate argument against the then-current efforts to restrict immigration to America, a follow-up to the author's best-selling 1912 memoir *The Promised Land*, still considered a classic of immigrant literature, in which she chronicled her own journey from Russia (present-day Belarus) to America at the age of thirteen, her public school education, and her assimilation into American culture. The success of that earlier book fueled Antin's activism on behalf of immigrant rights, and made her a much sought-after lecturer for several years, although her writing career and public profile were unfortunately curtailed by a nervous breakdown she suffered in 1918, brought about in part by stress over her relationship with her husband due to his pro-German sympathies during World War I. The uncommon jacket has a beautiful wrap-around illustration by an artist whose name is printed a little fuzzily on the rear flap, and that I can't quite make out. (Definitely not Joseph Stella, who did the internal illustrations.)

(Very Good+ in a Good dust jacket)

\$250



Shaw, Harry, and Ruth Davis, eds. *Americans One and All.*
New York/London: Harper & Brothers, (c.1947). First edition.

INSCRIBED and SIGNED by editor Shaw. "Richly varied in theme and mood, these 23 stories show the common humanity of all Americans. Heroes and heroines represent the many strains that make up America – Irish, Negro, Indian, Russian, German, Slav, Czech, Mexican, and many more." Foreword by Louis Adamic; includes stories by John Fante, William Saroyan, Willa Cather, Marjorie Worthington, Benjamin Appel, Paul Green, Sinclair Lewis, and many others.

(Very Good+ in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$150

How to Become an American Citizen.

New York: J.S. Ogilvie Publishing Company, 1929

(c.1926). Second edition (unstated).

Bradshaw, Cathrine A.

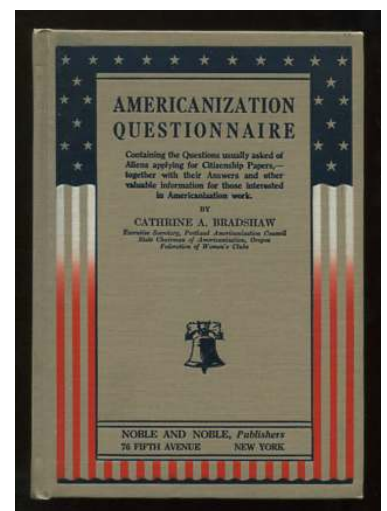
Americanization Questionnaire.

New York: Noble and Noble, (c.1925, 1926).

Two examples of the innumerable publications issued for the benefit of would-be American citizens (or those already here, but wishing to bone up on the basics) – as the Bradshaw book puts it: "Containing the Questions usually asked of Aliens applying for Citizenship Papers – together with their Answers and other valuable information for those interested in Americanization work."

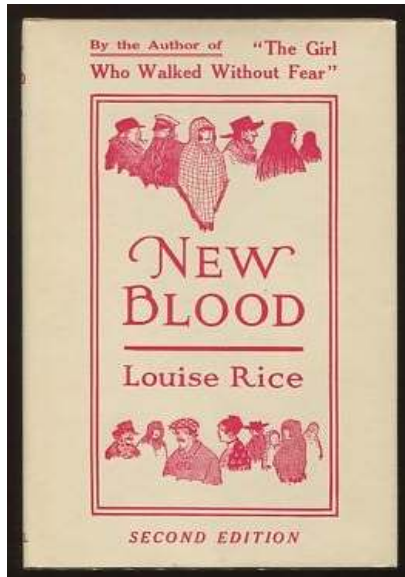
Ogilvie: Good, in pictorial wraps \$35

Bradshaw: Near Fine, no dust jacket \$50



Huddled masses of books await you in Booth 212.

The Case For . . .



Rice, Louise. *New Blood: A Story of the Folks That Make America*.

New York/Chicago: Fleming H. Revell Co., (c.1922). Second edition.

“With skilled hand, Miss Rice depicts the varying characteristics of a New Jersey village into which come men and women from the Old Lands across the sea. How race prejudice is subdued, community interest aroused and the spirit of unity and brotherhood awakened is dealt with in a story of genuine interest.” If that sounds like a fairy tale to you, you’re not alone: a contemporary reviewer commented that “America’s immigration problem would be no problem at all if all immigrants were like those who come to Boonville in [this] story, and if all native-born Americans were like the inhabitants of that town. Miss Rice paints a very pretty picture of things as they may be when the millennium comes, but it isn’t a bit like real life.”

(Near Fine in a Fine dust jacket)

\$125

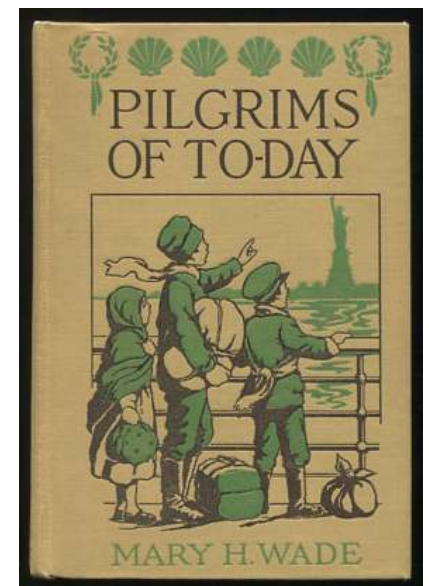
Wade, Mary H. *Pilgrims of To-day*.

Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1916. First edition.

A rebuke to the people “who give unstinted praise to the early pilgrims, [yet] grieve at the incoming tide of foreigners during recent years [and] believe that unless a stop is put to such an inflow we cannot continue to prosper,” in the form of short biographies of seven such “foreigners” who made good in America, and then some: John Muir, Jacob Riis, Mary Antin, Edward Alfred Steiner, Carl Schurz, Nathan Straus, and Joseph Pulitzer. Illustrated with full-page photographic portraits of Pulitzer, Antin, Muir, and Straus. (What, they couldn’t spring for pix of the other three?)

(Very Good+, no dust jacket)

\$100



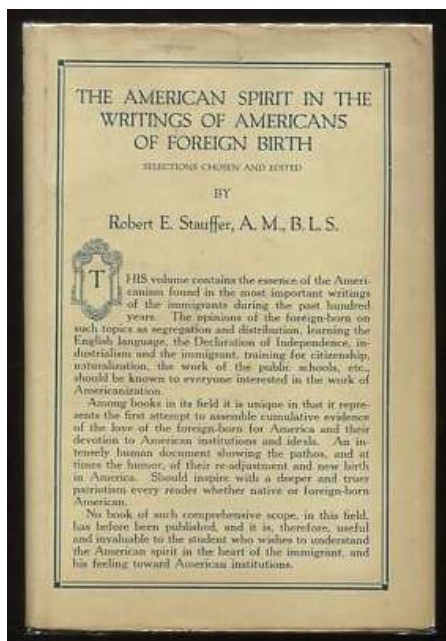
Stauffer, Robert E., ed. *The American Spirit in the Writings of Americans of Foreign Birth*.

Boston: The Christopher Publishing House, (c.1922). First edition.

INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the editor. “This volume contains the essence of the Americanism found in the most important writings of the immigrants during the past hundred years [including] the opinions of the foreign-born on such topics as segregation and distribution, learning the English language, the Declaration of Independence, industrialism and the immigrant, training for citizenship, naturalization, the work of the public schools, etc. [This book] represents the first attempt to assemble cumulative evidence of the love of the foreign-born for America and their devotion to American institutions and ideals [and] should inspire with a deeper and truer patriotism every reader whether native or foreign-born American.” Among the two dozen or so writers represented in this collection are Mary Antin, Edward Bok, Jacob Riis, Otto Kahn, Edward A. Steiner, Angelo Patria, and Anzia Yeziarska.

(Very Good+ in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$100



Inspired yet? Come visit us in Booth 212 . . .

. . . and Against

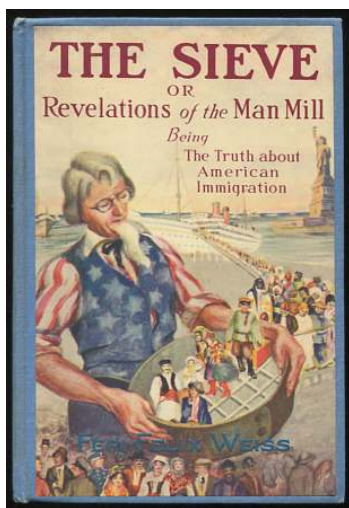
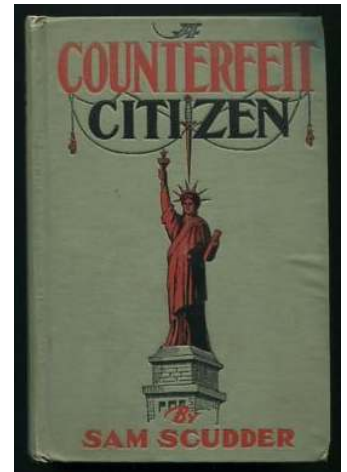
Scudder, Sam. *A Counterfeit Citizen*.

New York: Broadway Publishing Co., (c.1908). First edition.

So you thought bogus “voter fraud” claims were a recent invention? Check out this novelized indictment of U.S. immigration policy, specifically what was alleged to be the massively corrupt practice of selling fake naturalization papers. A “Publishers’ Note” lays it out, with a clarity of purpose (and prejudice) that would do Stephen Miller proud: “There are thirteen million voters in the United States. Of these thirteen million voters, five million are of foreign extraction, and of these five million, one million five hundred thousand are fraudulent.” The novel traces the voter-fraud career of one Giovanni Del Veccio, allegedly based on a real person, with the facts “deviated from but slightly. The author is described as “one who was for many years in the service of the Government in a high and confidential capacity, and every statement herein is based on unquestionable fact.” (An Appendix contains six pages of footnotes, citing documents and other sources woven into the narrative.) Very uncommon.

(Very Good, no dust jacket)

\$250



Weiss, Feri Felix. *The Sieve; or, Revelations of the Man Mill; being the truth about American immigration.*

Boston: The Page Company, 1921. 2nd impression.

This wide-ranging catalog of abuses of the immigration system (mostly perpetrated by the immigrants themselves, it seems) was written by a Boston-based immigration inspector with thirteen years’ experience, who had himself come to the U.S. from Italy in 1892. A contemporary reviewer notes that “he relates many amusing and some pathetic stories about the attempts of immigrants to pass through the Sieve; they have been taught, he says, by relatives already here to become liars long before they arrive, for it is regarded as a mark of cleverness to be able to fool the inspector.” The book’s dedication has a familiar ring to it – “This book is dedicated to all who believe in AMERICA FIRST!” – and in Chapter XII the author puts all his cards on the table: entitled “The Religion of Eugenics,” it’s a full-throated advocacy of the tenets of that now widely-reviled philosophy.

(Near Fine, no dust jacket)

\$200

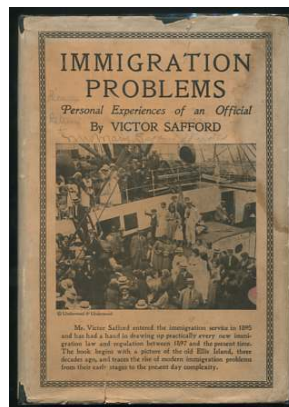
Safford, Victor. *Immigration Problems.*

New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1925. First edition.

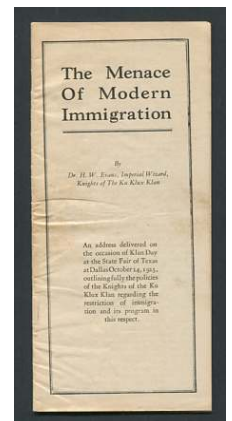
The author “entered the immigration service in 1895 and has had a hand in drawing up practically every new immigration law and regulation between 1897 and the present time. The book begins with a picture of the old Ellis Island, three decades ago, and traces the rise of modern immigration problems from their early stages to the present day complexity.”

Safford’s insider’s account of the Ellis Island intake procedures has been cited as evidence debunking the urban myth that incoming immigrants’ names were capriciously changed at Ellis Island due to a supposed inability of the new arrivals to communicate their original-language names clearly to immigration officials. Safford, however, makes the point that both he and numerous other officials were conversant in many languages, and that if an official did not speak a traveler’s language, translators were available to assist.

(Very Good+ in a Good dust jacket) \$200



I’ve shoved this little piece of racist, nativist, hateful trash over here to the edge of the page, because even measured against some of the opinions expressed in these other books, it’s a little “unclean,” and deserving of isolation.



Evans, (Dr.) H.W. *The Menace of Modern Immigration. Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, [1923].*

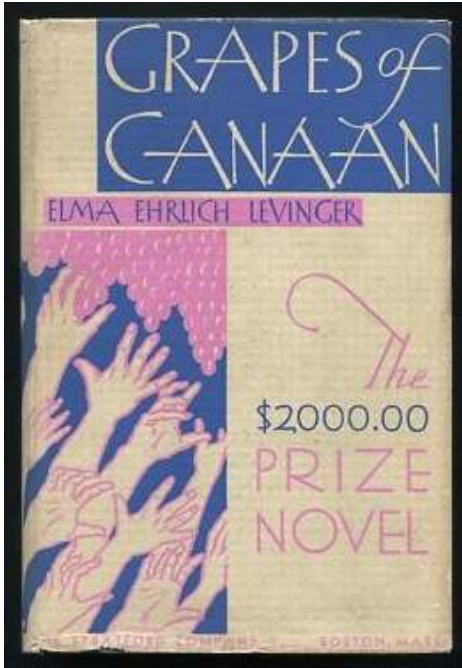
“An address delivered on the occasion of Klan Day at the State Fair of Texas at Dallas October 24, 1923, outlining fully the policies of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan regarding the restriction of immigration and its program in this respect.” Dr. Hiram Wesley Evans, a dentist by day, was the Imperial Wizard of the KKK from 1922 until 1939. The “Klan Day” event at which this speech was delivered drew a crowd of 75,000.

(Very Good, in printed wrappers)

\$400

. . . unless you’d rather be off somewhere building a wall.

The Jews come to America . . .



Levinger, Elma Ehrlich. *Grapes of Canaan*.

Boston: The Stratford Company, (c.1931). First edition.

Jacket-blurbed as “The Jewish *Main Street*” – and given a little extra juice from having been named “The \$2,000 Prize Novel” by its publisher – this “trenchant study of the Jew in America by one who knows the American scene, in its sordidness and in its grandeur” centers around a “humble Jewish peddler, Abraham Kupper, who rises from poverty to the position of millionaire and community boss.” The Chicago-born author (1887-1958) was a teacher, a prolific author, and an active participant in numerous Jewish women’s and youth organizations. Her 30+ books and plays, including a number of biographies of prominent Jewish individuals, were primarily aimed at educating women and young people about Jewish history and traditions. This book, obviously her bid to make an impact as a mainstream novelist, unfortunately missed its mark – less a reflection on its quality, I suspect, than on the perception that it was targeted at a niche readership; as a reviewer for the *Sacramento Bee* put it, rather unkindly, “Most of us Gentiles will prefer Potash and Perlmutter.” That brush-off notwithstanding, the book received generally positive notices in the hinterlands – but *The New York Times* neglected to review it, its 1935 sequel, *Bread for Beauty*, was published only in England, and Mrs. Levinger apparently abandoned the writing of “serious” fiction thereafter.

(Near Fine in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$800

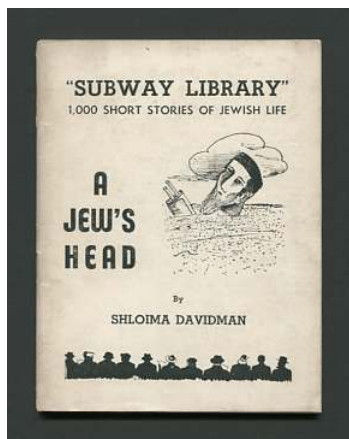
Brinig, Myron. *Singermann*.

New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1929. 3rd printing.

The author’s second novel, about a family of Jewish immigrants from Romania who have settled in Montana. Although born in Minneapolis, Brinig grew up in Butte and used the city (fictionalized as “Silver Bow”) as the setting for many of his early novels, which also drew upon his own family history. Moses Singermann, the book’s protagonist, and his wife Rebecca were based on Brinig’s parents. Moses runs a successful general store, and much of the novel is devoted to his often bitterly contentious relationship with his six sons, of whom the youngest, Michael, an aspiring writer, is clearly a stand-in for the author. (A sequel, *This Man is My Brother* (1932), centers around Michael’s return home for a visit after making a success as a novelist.) Brinig, a gay man who remained closeted throughout his life but often wrote empathetically about homosexual characters in his fiction, eventually gravitated to the artists’ colony of Taos, New Mexico, where he became part of the Mabel Dodge Luhan crowd.

(Near Fine in a Near Fine dust jacket)

\$400



Davidman, Shloima. *A Jew’s Head* (“*Subway Library*,” No. 1).

Brooklyn: S. Davidman, 1942.

A pocket-size publication, published by the author (who later went by the name Solomon Davidman). Noted as “translated from Yiddish,” it’s a short tale (the booklet is only 40 pages, including the covers) about a Jewish merchant, Mr. Julius Jackson (né Judah Jacobs), a Ukranian immigrant living in Queens but with a successful shop on 42nd Street in Manhattan. One day, he encounters a news story in a Yiddish-language newspaper (“A Jew’s Head,” presented here as a story-within-the-story), a horrific account of a Nazi massacre of Jews in a Ukranian village. The shock of reading that story proves to be unexpectedly inspiring.

(Very Good, in stapled wrappers)

\$250

More details about all these books may be discovered . . .

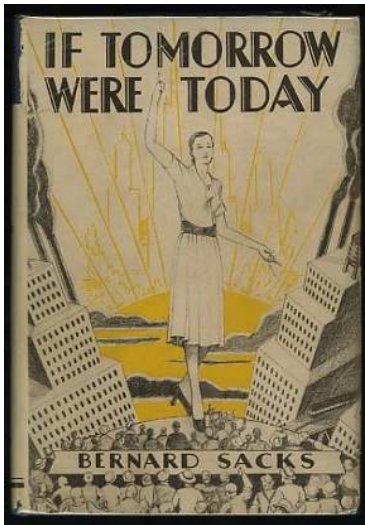
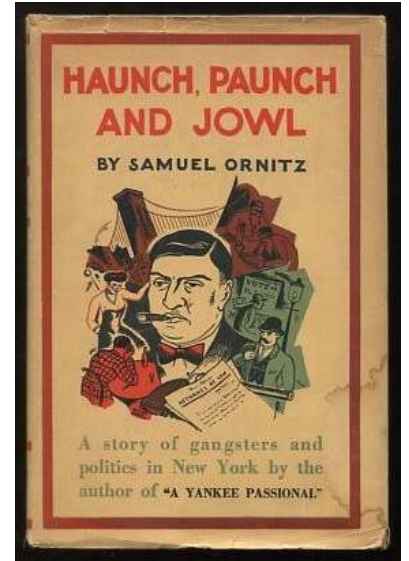
... and write all about it.

Ornitz, Samuel. *Haunch, Paunch and Jowl*.

Garden City NY: Garden City Publishing Co., ca. 1934 (c.1923). Reprint edition. INSCRIBED (in what appears to be Danish) and SIGNED by actor (and noted book collector) Jean Hersholt. "This epic of the lower east side gives society a few doses of strong medicine." I'll say! Also from the jacket blurb (and I can't do a better summary than this): "When New York was a wide open town, when low brows ruled in high places, in the hurly-burly racy nineties, an immigrant boy rose from gangster to judge of a high court. In the interim he was student, singing waiter, police court runner, lover, shyster lawyer, strike-maker and strikebreaker." The book was originally published as an "anonymous autobiography," but by the time this "Star Books" reprint appeared in the early 1930s, Ornitz had long since been outed as its author and had decamped for Hollywood, where he enjoyed about twenty years' worth of success as a screenwriter before running up against HUAC and becoming one of the "Hollywood Ten." Being the oldest member of that benighted (and blacklisted) group, at 57, didn't spare him from serving a prison term for contempt of Congress, after which he published one more novel, *Bride of the Sabbath*, before his death in 1957.

(Very Good+ in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$85



Sacks, Bernard. *If Tomorrow Were Today*.

New York: Rudolph Field, Inc., (c.1931). First edition.

"A true story of the radical Jews on the East Side. This is the first book dealing with the subject, where the author reveals their lives and loves, as he has seen them, after living among them for nearly two score years. The term 'Bolsheviki' is applied, in some quarters, to people who belong to various sections of the radical movement. Reds, Radicals, Revolutionists, are the three big 'R's' under which they are collectively labeled. The author presents an unbiased and unprejudiced spectacle; he portrays a true and startling account of the Jewish people, as we have never known it." Very uncommon, especially in jacket, and missed by Hanna, Simone, Rideout – pretty much everybody, in fact, including, until now, you.

(Very Good+ in a Good dust jacket)

\$1,000

... although not *everybody* was all that thrilled about their arrival.

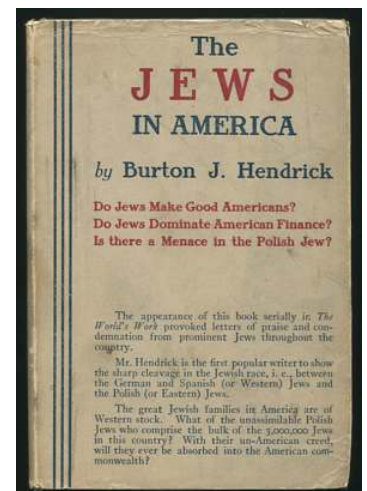
Hendrick, Burton J. *The Jews in America*.

New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1923. First edition.

This treatise starts off well enough, by decrying "the wave of anti-Semitism, which has been sweeping over the world since the ending of the Great War [and] has apparently reached the United States," citing examples such as "the most desirable clubs ... becoming more rigid in their inhospitable attitude toward Jewish members." In addressing some of the usual charges leveled against the Jewish population – "Do Jews Make Good Americans? Do Jews Dominate American Finance?" – the author offers a sincere rebuttal, but goes off the rails as he analyzes the "third phase" of Jewish immigration, expounding on "the sharp cleavage in the Jewish race, i.e. between the German and Spanish (or Western) Jews and the Polish (or Eastern) Jews." The year 1881, he states, saw the advent of "an entirely different type" of Jewish immigrant, an "unassimilable" mass from Eastern Europe, notably Poland, devoted to an "un-American creed." This, indeed, becomes the focus of the book's second half, unsubtly embodied in the chapter titles: "The 'Menace' of the Polish Jew" and "Radicalism Among the Polish Jews."

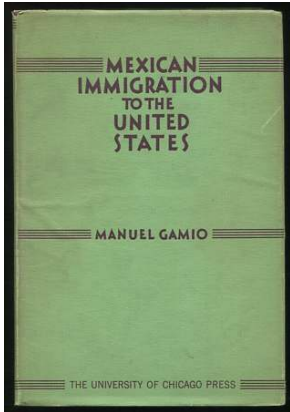
(Very Good+ in a Good dust jacket)

\$200



... by making your way over to ReadInk, in Booth 212.

From South of the Border



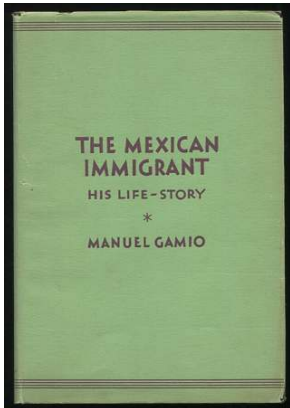
Gamio, Manuel. *Mexican Immigration to the United States: A Study of Human Migration and Adjustment [and] The Mexican Immigrant: His Life-Story: Autobiographic Documents.*

Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1930 and 1931. First editions.

Important early studies of Mexican immigration, by an author often considered to be the father of modern anthropological studies in Mexico. Gamio earned his Ph.D. studying under renowned anthropologist Franz Boas at Columbia University, then returned to his home country in 1910, where he was a co-founder of the International School of American Archaeology and Ethnology in Mexico and did pioneering research and field work in both Mexico and Guatemala. It was during a period of residence in the U.S. in the late 1920s that he produced these two volumes, his only major works in English, under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council in Washington, D.C.

(Near Fine/VG and Very Good+/VG)

\$350 each, or \$600 for the pair



Griffith, Beatrice. *American Me.*

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1948. First edition.

INSCRIBED and SIGNED "For Freda[?] Freund[?] / from / Julie / and / Beatrice Griffith" (all in the same hand). This essential work of Mexican-American life in California (specifically Los Angeles) is a blend of fact, fiction and sociology, derived largely from the author's conversations with "the children of America's last great immigration." The first chapter is about the 1943 Zoot Suit Riots, and the book goes on to examine nearly every aspect of Mexican-American life: the family, the church, employment, juvenile delinquency, schools, housing, health, the effects of World War II on the community, etc. Although the 1992 film (directed by Edward James Olmos) appropriates only the book's title and uses none of its content, one can legitimately make a case for the book as the movie's spiritual source. Includes a 9-page glossary of Spanish and Pachuco words.

(Very Good, no dust jacket)

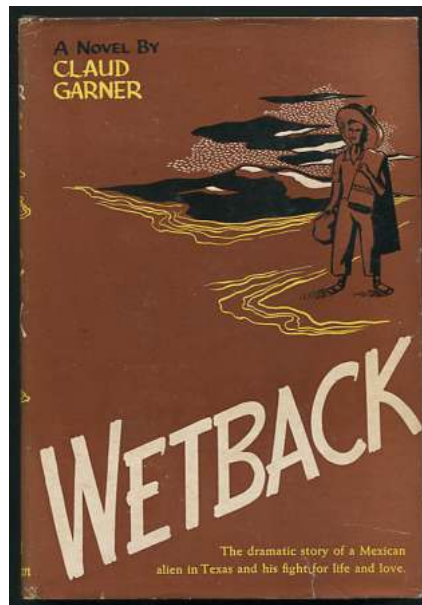
\$350

Garner, Claud. *Wetback.*
New York: Coward-McCann, (c.1947). First edition.

This "dramatic story of a Mexican alien in Texas and his fight for life and love" was the first work of fiction (in English, at any rate) to deal with the struggles of Mexican immigrants who have entered the U.S. illegally via "the dangerous night crossing of the Rio Grande." The author, per a 1947 newspaper article, was "the principal owner of the Texas Fruit Growers company, [whose] business during his stay in the Rio Grande Valley in the 1920's and 30's brought him in close contact with Mexican laborers." The book was named the second best Texas book of 1947 by the Texas Institute of Letters.

(Very Good+ in a Very Good+ jacket)

\$200



From the Mediterranean

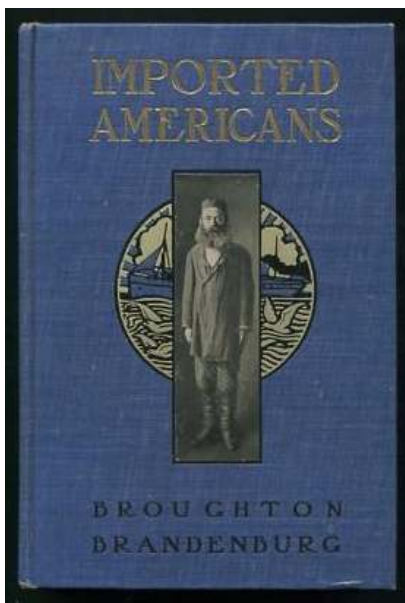
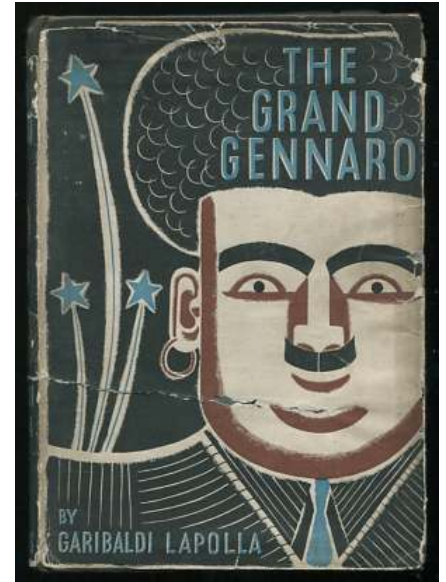
Lapolla, Garibaldi M. *The Grand Gennaro*.

London: Jarrolds Publishers, 1936. First British edition.

An acknowledged classic of Italian-American literature, and extremely scarce in both its original U.S. and British editions. Like the author's two previous novels, *Fire in the Flesh* (1931) and *Miss Rollins in Love* (1932), the present work takes place around the turn of the twentieth century in East Harlem, at that time the largest Italian settlement in America. It centers around the title character, an ambitious man who has left his family behind in Italy in order to get rich in America; through "guile and treachery and courage," including taking over the business of an old friend by force, he achieves success as "the rag king of Harlem's Little Italy," but after he (finally) brings his wife and children over from the Old Country, his life starts to unravel. Lapolla was one of the first Italian-American authors to describe the experience of acculturation and the struggle between native Italian culture and the process of Americanization. His day job, for more than thirty years, was as an English teacher and administrator in the New York City public school system, and in his spare time (ha!) he wrote novels, plays, short stories, poetry, and two cookbooks.

(Good in a Fair dust jacket)

\$450



Brandenburg, Broughton. *Imported Americans; the story of the experiences of a disguised American and his wife studying the immigration question.*

New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company, 1904. First edition.

The author and his wife contrived to go "undercover" in the Lower East Side "Italian quarter" of New York City, believing that "the true light, the revelation of the natural remedies and the only real understanding of the immigrant lay in seeing from the underside." Why the Italians? Simple: "Since Italy sends not only three times more immigrants than any other country, but a larger proportion of the sort that are objected to in America, it was plain that our work lay among the Italians." And, determined to have the full-on Immigrant Experience, after soaking up the culture (and language) for a few months in early 1903, they booked passage (steerage, of course) on a ship bound for Naples, kicked around in Italy for awhile, then became immigrants themselves, "re-enter[ing] our own country as strangers and aliens, [returning] in the steerage and pass[ing] through Ellis Island." The author dedicates the book to "my brave little wife, who endured with heroism conditions that, while not unbearable for me, were superlative hardships for a woman of delicacy and refinement."

(Very Good+, no dust jacket)

\$125

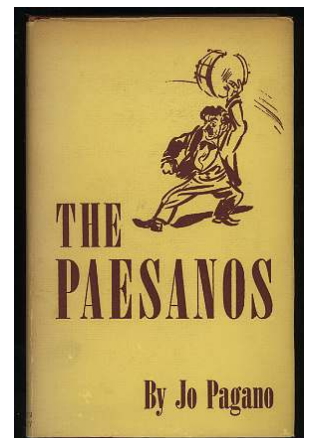
Pagano, Jo. *The Paesanos*.

Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1940. First edition.

The first of two novels by this Colorado-born author, based on his own Italian immigrant family (fictionalized as the Simones and the Maccaluccis). Pagano was better-known (and more prolific) as a screenwriter than as a novelist, with sixteen feature films and several dozen TV series episodes to his credit between 1938 and 1969, over which time he published just three novels, one of which was a sequel to this book, *Golden Wedding* (1947). This copy bears the ownership signature of novelist and poet Sanora Babb, who, like Pagano, spent a good deal of her childhood in Colorado before making her way to California, where she worked as a journalist and eventually met and married the famed Chinese-American cinematographer James Wong Howe. .

(Very Good in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$200



There is no truth to the rumor that Marlon Brando modeled Vito Corleone after Gennaro.
(I know this because I just made it up.)

From Across the Pacific

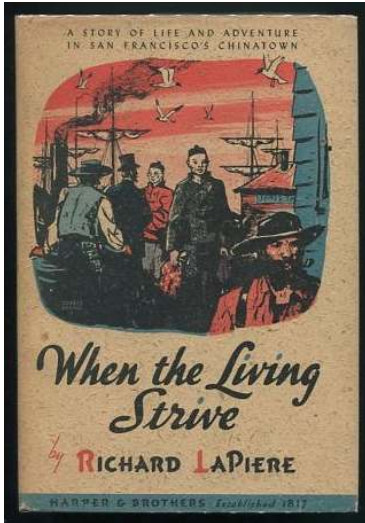
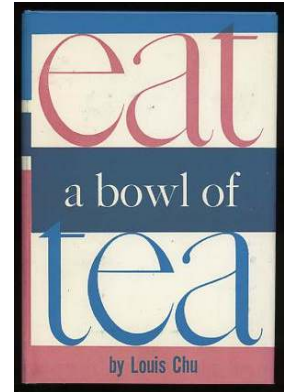
Chu, Louis. *Eat a Bowl of Tea*.

New York: Lyle Stuart, (c.1961) First edition.

“Their marriage rites were beautiful, in the tradition of old China. Their honeymoon was exquisite – until the bridegroom mysteriously lost his sexual powers. [This novel] is a compelling story of life in the Chinese-American community of New York City. Its pages come alive with the maneuvers of the Tong leaders, the colorful visitors to the Money Come mah-jong club house, the gossip of closely-knit Chinatown.” This book was the basis for the 1989 film of the same name, adapted by Judith Rascoe and directed by Wayne Wang.

(Near Fine in a Very Good+ dust jacket)

\$125



LaPiere, Richard. *When the Living Strive*.

New York/London: Harper & Brothers, (c.1941). First edition.

This “story of life and adventure in San Francisco's Chinatown,” centering around an immigrant, Lew Gan, “a lovable, foolish, altogether beguiling character, captures much of the full, exotic flavor of [the neighborhood] in all its turbulent growth and change through the tong wars, the Earthquake, the Great Fire, the World War, [and] the Depression.” The author was a professor of sociology at Stanford, and in 1934, under a Rockefeller grant, had made a study of Chinatown, for which he collected “a large number of life histories and acquir[ed] a deep and affectionate understanding for these little known people.” (Little known to *who*, exactly...?)

(Very Good+ in a Very Good+ dust jacket)

\$125

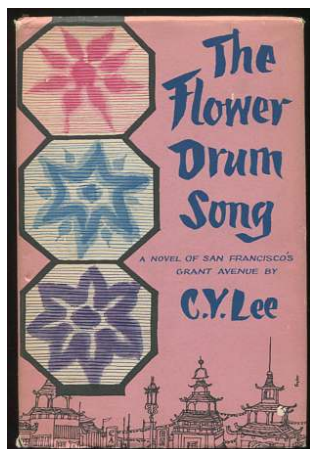
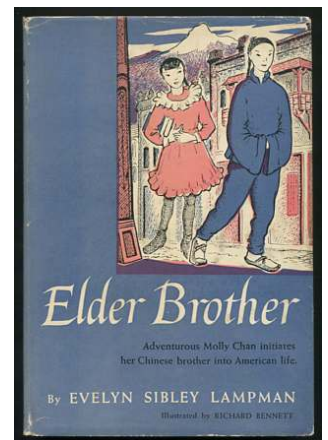
Lampman, Evelyn Sibley. *Elder Brother*.

Garden City NY: Doubleday & Company, 1951. First edition.

Set in Portland, Oregon's Chinatown in the early 1900s, this novel for young adult readers is about the tensions created within a Chinese-American family when the father, “adhering to custom, [sends] to China for a cousin to adopt into the family in place of the son he hadn't had” – arousing the resentment of his 12-year-old daughter Molly (who prides herself on being an American girl and is indifferent to traditional Chinese customs) at having to help her new “brother” adapt and assimilate. An early and relatively uncommon title by this popular Oregon-born author of children's and young adult fiction.

(Near Fine in a Near Fine dust jacket)

\$75



Lee, C.Y. *The Flower Drum Song*.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1957. First edition.

“A novel of San Francisco's Grant Avenue” – i.e., Chinatown – about a wealthy man in his sixties who fled China when the Communists came to power and settled in San Francisco. His stubborn resistance to assimilation and acceptance of American ways (he even refuses to learn English, limiting his vocabulary to “yes” and “no”) creates conflict with his two sons. The hit Broadway musical version lightened things up by shifting the focus from the old man to his elder son, emphasizing the latter's romantic tribulations, and also by excising some of the book's darker plot elements (including a suicide). Fun fact: The 1961 movie was the only Rodgers & Hammerstein film adaptation to lose money.

(Near Fine in a Very Good+ dust jacket)

\$85

(Familiar with the “Chinese Exclusion Act”? Maybe you should be.)

From Beyond the Pale

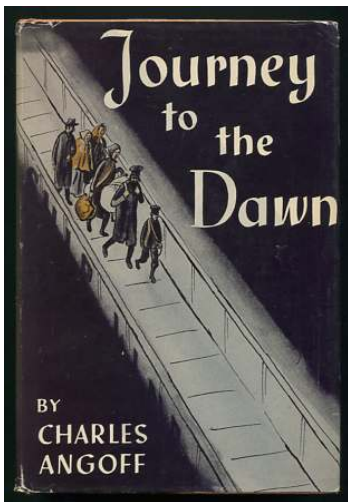
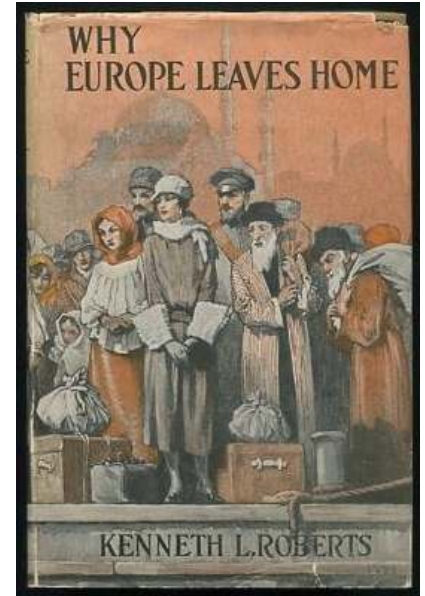
Roberts, Kenneth L. *Why Europe Leaves Home*.

[n.p.]: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, (c.1922). First edition.

“A true account of the reasons which cause Central Europeans to overrun America, which lead Russians to rush to Constantinople and other fascinating and unpleasant places, which coax Greek royalty and commoners into strange byways and hedges, and which induce Englishmen and Scotchmen to go out at night.” Written several years before he turned his attention to historical fiction (*Arundel*, *Northwest Passage*, et al.), this, the author’s second published book, drew (as had his first, *Europe’s Morning After*) on his journalistic work, in particular a series of articles about immigration that he’d written for *The Saturday Evening Post*. While the book claims to have been based on “accurate and de-propagandized information,” that rather elides the fact that it was itself propaganda, sometimes viciously so. Over the course of the preceding decade, Roberts had become a leading advocate for stricter immigration laws, even going so far as to testify before a Congressional committee in support of same. His text is liberally sprinkled with such lovely phraseology as “the queer alien mongrelized people of Southern and Eastern Europe” and (in reference to Jews) “human parasites.”

(Near Fine in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$500



Angoff, Charles. *Journey to the Dawn*.

New York: The Beechhurst Press, (c.1951) First edition.

This was the opening entry in what was originally intended to be a trilogy but ultimately became eleven published volumes, plus a twelfth that was left unfinished at the time of the author’s death; it tells the extended saga of a family of immigrant Russian Jews, the Polonskys, much like Angoff’s own. Angoff (1902-1979) was born in Minsk in the Russian Empire (present-day Belarus) and emigrated with his family to Boston in 1908. His journalism career, which began in 1923, was most notable for his association with H.L. Mencken, who hired him as an assistant in 1925; he became managing editor of Mencken’s magazine *The American Mercury* in 1931, and held the post (discontinuously) until it ceased publication in 1951.

(Near Fine in a Very Good+ dust jacket)

\$75

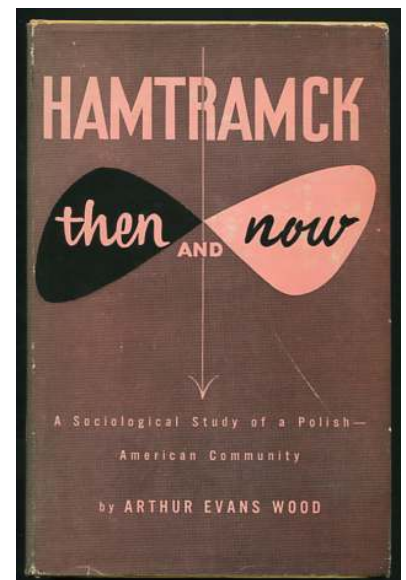
Wood, Arthur Evans. *Hamtramck -- Then and Now: A Sociological Study of a Polish-American Community*.

New York: Bookman Associates, (c.1955). First edition.

“A study of the political and social behavior of Polish immigrants and their children in Hamtramck, Michigan, a community which they have dominated since the first decade of the present century.” Hamtramck, “a sort of ‘cultural island’ within the Detroit Metropolitan Area,” became an attractive destination for Poles and other immigrants with the opening of the Dodge automobile plant on its southern border in 1914, which helped to make it the fastest-growing community in the U.S. in the 1910s. Also noted is that “the Poles took avidly to politics, and the intense rivalries among their politicians have kept the community in turmoil for over three decades.” (And speaking of “Then and Now”: the percentage of the community’s Polish-descent population dropped from 90% in 1970 to 14.5% in 2010 – and is probably even lower today, since recent decades have seen the influx of a large number of immigrants from the Middle East and southeastern Europe – to the point where, in 2013, Hamtramck became the first Muslim-majority city in the U.S.)

(Very Good+ in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$85



For those of you who might be having trouble (as I was): it’s pronounced “Ham-tram-ick.”

From the Emerald Isle

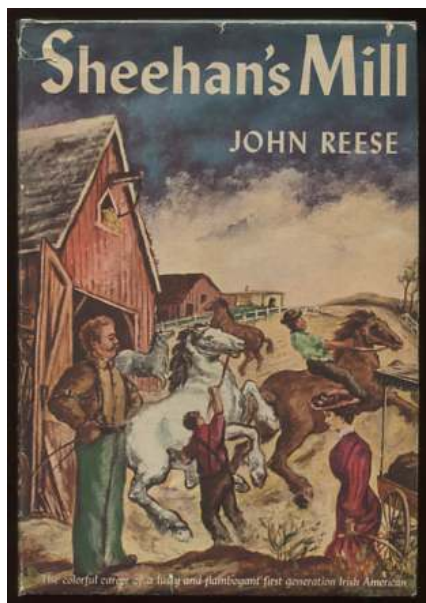
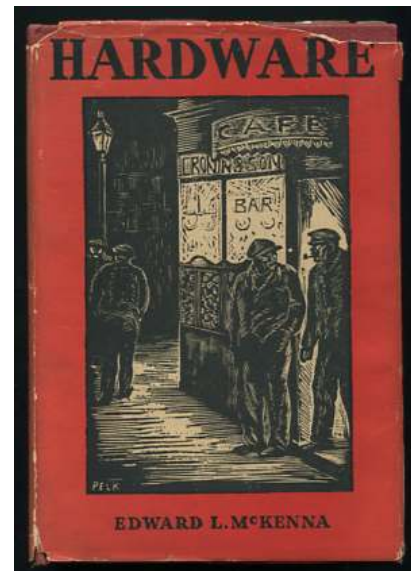
McKenna, Edward L. *Hardware*.

New York: Robert M. McBride & Company, 1929. First edition.

INSCRIBED (“To Ike Gilb / from his friend”) and **SIGNED** by the author. “This is the story of the Cronins, of James the founder of the family who came from Ireland to the Red Hook section of Brooklyn, and rounded out a life of sober respectability [sic] as a saloon keeper; of Michael, his son, shrewder than his father, and more suave, who prospered mightily in the parental business, and became a power in ‘the party.’ They were a hard bitten lot, the Cronins, and no amount of cultural veneer, superimposed by wealth and power, could lessen their inherent hardness.” McKenna published another novel early the following year, *The Bruiser*, about an Irish-American boxer in Baltimore, and another one in 1931, *Tomorrow Once Again*; other than that, his output consisted almost entirely of a ton of magazine fiction, beginning in 1927 and only ending with his death in 1953. And for much of this time, he held down an unlikely day job: as an assistant professor of insurance at the University of Pennsylvania.

(Very Good+ in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$300



Reese, John. *Sheehan's Mill*.

Garden City NY: Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1943. First edition.

“The colorful career of a lusty and flamboyant first generation Irish American,” set in an unnamed eastern Nebraska town. Taking place during the 1890s and early 1900s, it’s told from the perspective of his son, “who, as the book progresses, is able to merge and blend with the changing pattern of the town as the Irish boys and the Celtic blarney tend to become subservient to the new immigrants – the Jew, the Slovak, the Hungarian, the new Americans who stamp the town with their new-old ways.” Not his father, however, a construction-gang worker who clings to his “drinking, swearing, fighting, and futile” ways. Here’s a vivid description of the father, from a contemporary review: “Mercurial, lusty, his every act denying the Catholic faith his words avow, roistering, lusting, thirsting, fighting, palavering, defiant, alternately living in bursts of glory and in ‘black Irish moods,’ a master of men, a lover of horses, generous, thoughtless, half mad in his eagerness for approval and the love of his kind” – in other words, every stereotypical Irishman you’ve ever heard of, on steroids.

(Near Fine in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$200

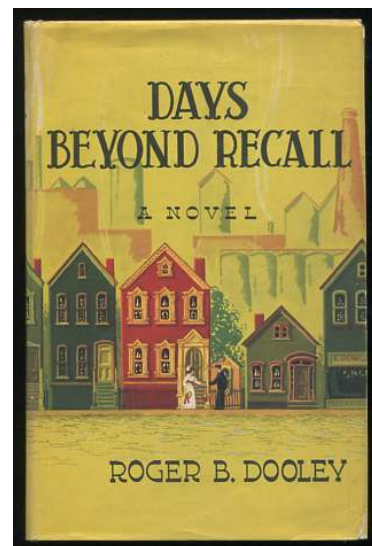
Dooley, Roger B. *Days Beyond Recall*.

Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, (c.1949). First edition.

INSCRIBED and **SIGNED** by the author. This “nostalgic and endearing” novel is “a family-chronicle story about the members of the Shanahan clan in the days of Buffalo’s turbulent Irish First Ward and of the effects of selfishness and pride, materialism and the American idea of progress upon their age.” The protagonist is Rose Shanahan, a young teacher, who’s dumped by the wishy-washy guy she’s in love with, but still carries a torch for him and thus rebuffs the attentions of an ambitious young policeman; things get complicated when the first guy comes back to town. “Interwoven with the problems of Rose is the story of the other oft-divided branches of the Shanahan clan in its feasts and its feuds, its wakes and weddings, with the rich ones and the repressed ones, the social climbers and the drunkards.”

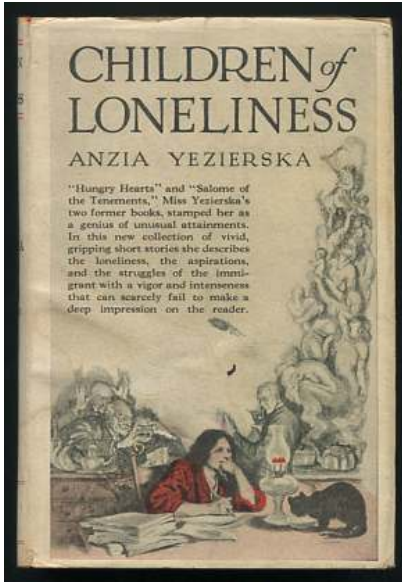
(Very Good+ in a Very Good + dust jacket)

\$100



Sure, and ye’ll be makin’ your way over to ReadInk, won’t ye now?

Anzia!



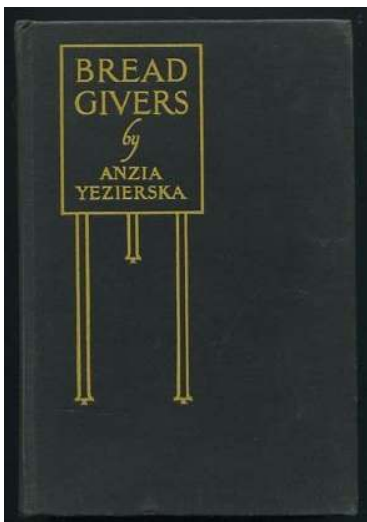
Children of Loneliness: Stories of Immigrant Life in America.
 New York/London: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1923. Third printing.
 (Very Good+ in a VG dust jacket) \$350

Salome of the Tenements.
 [Photoplay Edition]

New York: Grosset & Dunlap, [1925]. Second printing (stated). SIGNED by Jetta Goudal.
 Yezierska's first novel, and the second (and last) of her works to reach the screen, in a Paramount production starring the exotic Dutch-born actress Jetta Goudal, looking about as much like a tenement-dweller as Gloria Vanderbilt.
 (Good in a VG- dust jacket) \$200

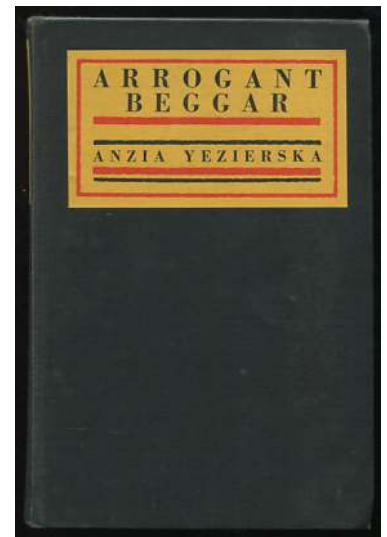


Seriously: what would any catalog of immigrant-themed books be without a healthy representation of the work of this Polish-born author (1880-1970), who came to the U.S. with her family around 1893 and settled in New York's Lower East Side? Her first short story was published in late 1915, and by 1920 she had written enough stories to fill a collection, *Hungry Hearts*, which was adapted by producer Samuel Goldwyn for the 1922 film of the same name. Her largely semi-autobiographical fiction, in which she explored the costs of acculturation and assimilation, especially among Jewish immigrant women, continued to appear throughout the 1920s, after which her career went into something of a decline. Her last book, the fictionalized autobiography *Red Ribbon on a White Horse*, was published in 1950.



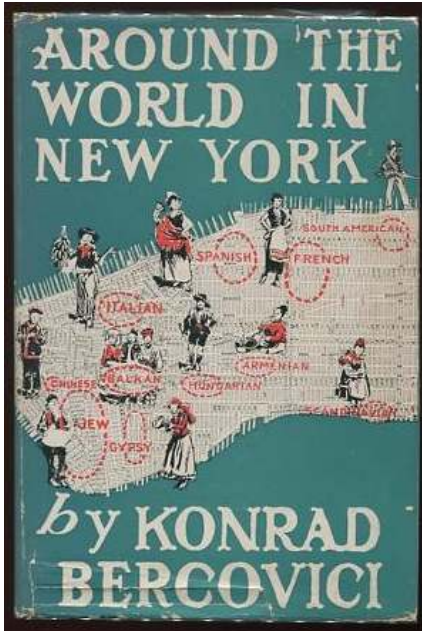
Bread Givers.
 Garden City NY; Doubleday, Page & Company, 1925.
 First edition.
 (Near Fine, no dust jacket) \$150

Arrogant Beggar.
 Garden City NY; Doubleday, Page & Company, 1927.
 First edition.
 (Very Good+, no dust jacket) \$75



👉 Come by Booth 212 for more fulsome detail on these books.

In the City



Bercovici, Konrad. *Around the World in New York*.
New York/London: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1938. 4th printing.

First published in 1924, this is an unabashed love letter to New York City in all its multicultural/multiethnic splendor. “A travel book written by one who has traveled slowly and fondly through the city, lived in almost every district, studied at first hand every foreign quarter. He has discoursed with the inhabitants, listened sympathetically to their tales of joy and woe, tasted their food and danced at their weddings. For twenty years Mr. Bercovici has made New York his hobby. He has had an eye for every nook and corner of interest, and has nosed out many a queer place in the greatest of all cities about which even the oldest inhabitants know nothing. A linguist, he has been able to form intimate associations with people wherever he has lived. So, for those who cannot do what he has done, against the historical background of the city he throws a vast panorama of the twenty or more nationalities living between the Hudson and the East River on Manhattan Island.” I’ve got nothing to add to that, except to note that I suspect this very attractive (and uncommon) dust jacket may be unique to the 1938 printing (never having seen a jacketed copy of any earlier edition for comparison purposes).

(Near Fine in a Very Good+ dust jacket)

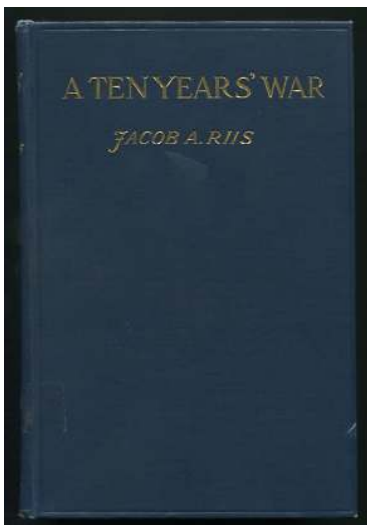
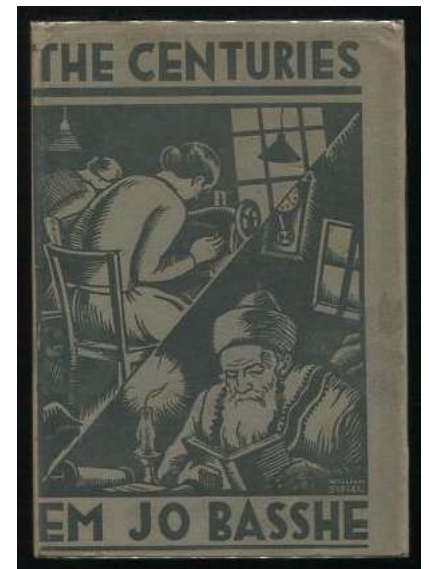
\$200

Basshe, Em Jo. *The Centuries; Portrait of a Tenement House*. New York: The Macaulay Company, (c.1927). First edition.

This play, “a vivid and stirring drama of immigrants in the great American melting pot” (i.e. the Lower East Side, yet again), was the second of this Lithuanian-born playwright’s works to be staged by the New Playwrights Theatre, which he had co-founded with four others in early 1927. In a contemporary interview, he stated that “we want to produce labor plays and we want labor audiences,” and in the view of the interviewer this one delivered: “The grinding exploitation in the East Side shops, the contempt for human life, and the strike scenes are all part of the general portrayal of the life of the garment workers just prior to their achievement of the unions.” (There’s also a fire scene set in a garment-making sweatshop that was inspired by the notorious 1913 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory disaster.) The critic for *The Daily Worker*, predictably, was impressed by the play, citing its “humor, pathos, tragedy and comedy” and its “intense dramatic moments.”

(Near Fine in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$200



Riis, Jacob A. *A Ten Years' War: An Account of the Battle with the Slum in New York*.

Boston/New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1900. First edition.

INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the author on the front endpaper: “Faithfully yours / Jacob A. Riis.” An account of Riis’s anti-slum crusade during the decade following the publication in 1890 of his most famous work, *How the Other Half Lives*. By 1900, this Danish-American social reformer/photographer/journalist was nationally known and much in demand as a speaker – a fact amply documented by the various markings in this copy, which was (inexplicably) withdrawn from the collection of the Nebraska State Historical Society and is stamped as such on the title page and the rear pastedown. (See the full catalog slip in ReadInk’s booth for additional information about the Lincoln, Nebraska, lecture, at which the author’s signature was obtained.)

(Very Good+, no dust jacket)

\$500

(New York City, of course!)

In the Sticks

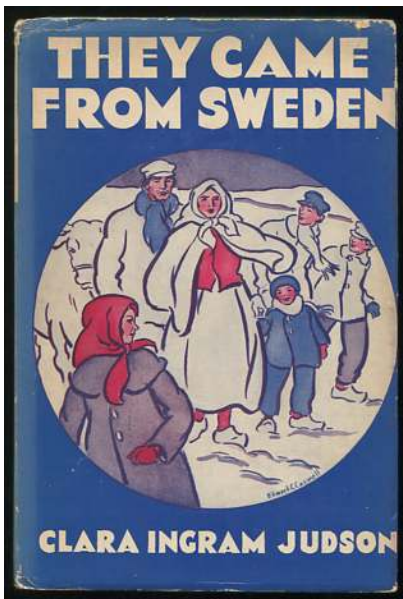
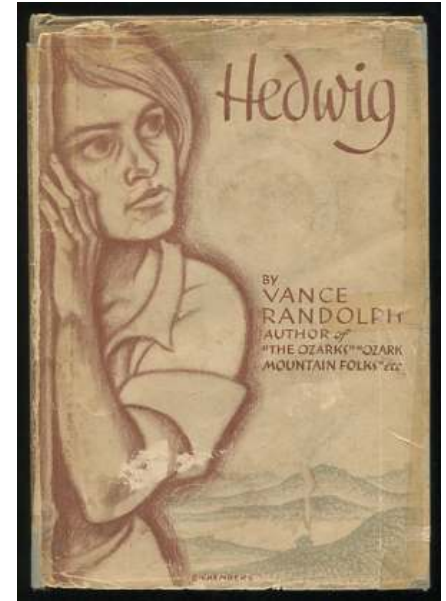
Randolph, Vance. *Hedwig*.

New York: The Vanguard Press, (c.1935). First edition.

Very uncommon novel (his first for adult readership) by the renowned folklorist, whose particular specialty was the Ozarks region. He had already written one general book about its people and culture (*The Ozarks: An American Survival of Primitive Society*, published in 1931), followed it up with two volumes of anecdotal Ozarks-related material, and co-edited a collection of Ozarkian hunting and fishing stories. The book bears the usual “all characters are fictitious” disclaimer, but given how thoroughly Randolph was steeped in the regional culture, it seems more than a little possible that this first-person-narrated tale of “a German-Russian girl who comes to the Ozarks by way of Kansas and Oklahoma” was also fact-based. Rather than a disguised “as told to” narrative by a single woman, though, it might well have been more of an amalgamation of every hard-luck story he'd ever heard from the women of the region – since the titular character’s experiences run the table, encompassing “migration, glamorous young love, hardships, marriage, brutality, childbirth, divorce, illicit loves, poverty, [and] prostitution.” (I guess all that *could* have happened to just one woman, but what a life!)

(Very Good in a Good dust jacket)

\$400



Judson, Clara Ingram. *They Came from Sweden*.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1942. First edition.

The saga of “the Larsson family, Gustaf, his brother and sister, young uncle, and mother and father, [who] came from a tenant farm in Sweden in 1856, when America was ‘the land of opportunity’ and when anyone who settled west of the Mississippi was a frontiersman. Homesteading first in Wisconsin, then in Minnesota, the Larssons found plenty of exciting adventures, hard work, and fun.” Per the jacket copy, this was to be the first in a series of books by this author “designed to interest and aid young Americans in understanding the background of young Europeans whose families have come to live in this country,” and indeed she seems to have followed through, having written at least five more books of this nature, focusing on immigrants from France, Scotland, Ireland, Dalmatia, and Bohemia; she was also a prolific author of biographies of prominent Americans, for juvenile readers.

(Very Good+ in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$125

Esty, Annette. *The Proud House*.

New York/London: Harper & Brothers, 1932. First edition.

Novel of a Polish immigrant family operating a farm in the hill country of Vermont. “Jozefa Zalinski came from Poland with her husband, Adam. They settled on an old Vermont farm and there she bore her children, Michalina, Jamie, Richard and little Katherine. Near them stood The Proud House in all its glory, the goal of Jozefa’s ambition. For it she toiled mightily in the fields and tucked away the American dollars that would pay for it.” A contemporary reviewer praised it as “human, absorbing, immensely readable, and simply and sympathetically told.” This appears to have been the author’s only published book; a contemporary newspaper photo of her shows a middle-aged woman whose face has a definite “peasant farm woman” look.

(Very Good+ in a Very Good- dust jacket)

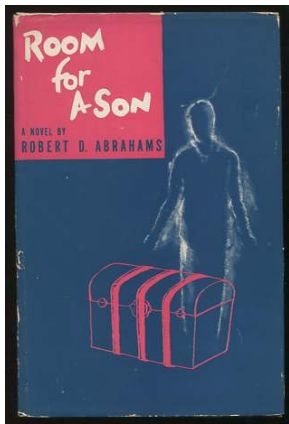
\$150



ReadInk loves ya, baby.

The Immigrant Experience in American Fiction

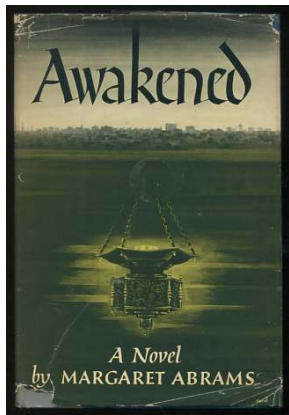
Many immigrant writers and their first-generation offspring, especially in the first half of the 20th century, turned to fiction as a means of processing and sharing what they, their families, and their communities had gone through as part of “coming to America.” In this section of our catalog are dozens of examples from this rich literary vein, arranged alphabetically by author (the “melting pot” approach); on the last page you will find an index by nationality/ethnic group..



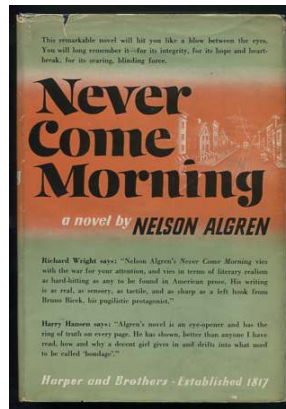
the seeming security of their position in Germany, are faced with the dual task of uniting a congregation and becoming adjusted to the pace of life in the United States.” While attempting to awaken their small-town congregation to its “Jewish responsibilities,” the couple are “in turn, are awakened to the meaning and challenge of Americanism and to the spiritual needs of their congregation.” (Did we mention that the book’s title is *Awakened?*)
(Near Fine in a VG- dj)
\$40

Abrahams, Robert D. *Room for A-Son.*

Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1951.
 Novel about a Jewish family in a small American town (unnamed, but somewhere in eastern Pennsylvania) that adopts a young refugee. “Through it all the reader is conscious of the sturdy Americanism of the small town’s population, the Americanism that accepts the stranger, reaches out a helping hand to the neighbor and expresses itself in democratic cooperation,” in a tale that is said to depict “Americanism and Judaism at their best.”
(Very Good+ in a VG dj)
\$60



Abrams, Margaret. *Awakened.* Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1954.
 Novel about “a German rabbi and his wife, who, uprooted from

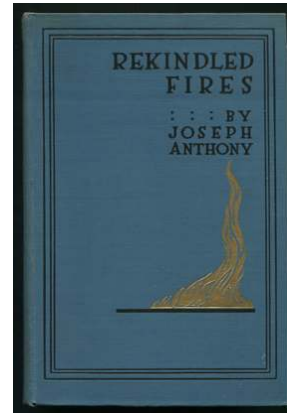


Algren, Nelson. *Never Come Morning.* NY: Harper & Brothers, (c.1942).

Algren’s second novel, but generally considered (including by the author himself) as the first one of importance, centered around a Polish-American boxer who becomes a gangster and his girlfriend, whose association with him leads her into the world of prostitution. Wikipedia: “The novel offended members of Chicago’s large Polish-American community, some of whose members denounced it as pro-Axis propaganda. Not knowing that Algren was of partly Jewish descent, some incensed Polish-American Chicagoans said he was pro-Nazi Nordic. His Polish-American critics persuaded Mayor Edward Joseph Kelly to ban the novel from the Chicago Public Library.”
(Near Fine in a VG dj)
\$250

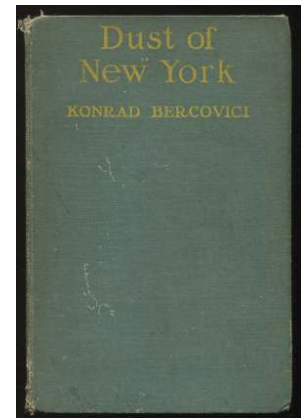
Anthony, Joseph. *Rekindled Fires.* NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1918.
 Novel set in a factory town in New Jersey, centering around the Zabransky family. The father, Michael Zabransky, who has come to the U.S. from Bohemia (the western region of today’s Czech Republic), is a truck farmer who has established himself as a local political boss. His authoritarian ways bring him up against the German community in his village, and also against his youngest son, the American-born Stanislaus,

whose most overt sign of rebellion is to allow himself to be known as “Stanley Zabriskie” in his high school.



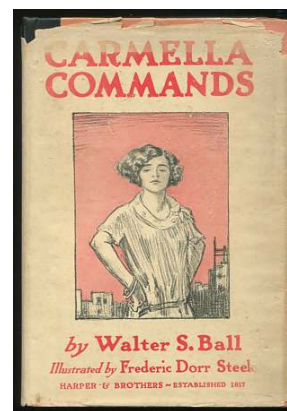
Despite his father’s attempts to involve him in the family business, Stanley is determined to get an education and ends up going to Rutgers University. A contemporary reviewer praised the book for its humor and also for its “complete absence of any attempt to expound or urge political doctrine and the absence of any strokes painting these newcomers to America as oppressed and miserable.”
(Very Good+, no dust jacket)
\$125

Americanization and what it means to our foreign born citizens.” The book was the winner of the American Girl-Harper prize contest, as “the best book of fiction for girls”; one of the judges was novelist Kathleen Norris. The author was a longtime newspaper editor in Providence, Rhode Island; this was apparently his only published book of fiction – which kinda makes you wonder what would compel a man in his early 50s to write a novel for a young female readership?
(Very Good in a Fair dj)
\$100



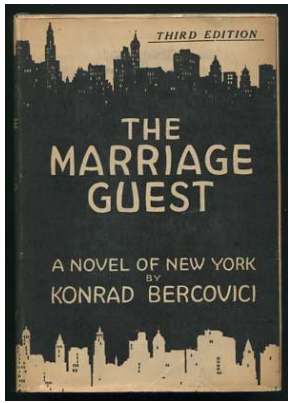
Bercovici, Konrad. *Dust of New York.* NY: Boni & Liveright, 1919.

A rare early work by this Romanian-born author, whose stories often focused on immigrant and impoverished communities. This book, his second, collected two dozen of his tales (some of which had appeared in the *New York World*), and represents his earliest forays into fiction. He was a prolific writer of short stories throughout the 1920s and into the mid-1930s, and became best known for his fictional and non-fictional chronicling of Roma (Gypsy) life and culture. (His 1941 autobiography was entitled *It’s the Gypsy in Me.*) This copy bears the Ex Libris bookplate of the Irish author Donn Byrne (1889-1928).
(Poor condition, no dj)
\$125



Ball, Walter S. *Carmella Commands.* NY: Harper & Brothers, 1929.
 “Against a novel setting this vivid story of fourteen year old Carmella, daughter of Italian peasants and child of the Italian quarter of an American city, catches the very spirit of

Immigrant Fiction (B - D)

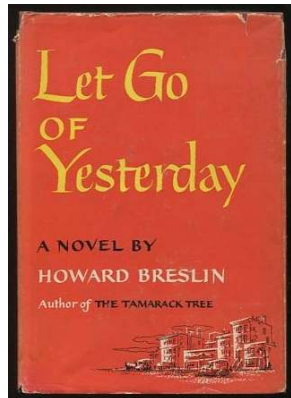


Bercovici, Konrad. *The Marriage Guest*. NY: Boni & Liveright, 1925. 3rd printing.

The Romanian-American author's first novel, following half a dozen collections of short stories, a couple of non-fiction books, and a play. Subtitled (on the jacket) "A Novel of New York," it's set in the German quarter of New York's East Side, and is about the daughter of a German violin maker, who falls in love with a composer but chooses a more "practical" but ultimately unhappy marriage to a rising young contractor. She finds that the only way to tolerate her husband is to imagine that he's the other guy – which causes intense psychological and moral strain when her daughter is born, as (in the words of a contemporary reviewer) "the physical child of the contractor and the spiritual child of the musician." Uncommon in jacket.

(Near Fine in a VG+ dj)
\$150

Carita, a Mexican girl who makes a new home in the U.S. Both books are quite uncommon. (Good, no dust jacket)
\$75



Breslin, Howard. *Let Go of Yesterday*. NY: Whittlesey House / McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1950.

The author drew on his own family life for this "warm, intimate portrait of an Irish-American family, the Callans, and their full, eventful lives [during] the gay twenties and the lean thirties." Set in the South Bronx, it features "the very stuff of American family life: neighborhood gang fights, a high-school dance, a funeral which the children turn into a riotous picnic, and a boy's fierce pride in his father who umpires the Sunday-morning baseball games." Mysteriously scarce, with no copies offered online as of January 2025.

(Very Good in a Good dj)
\$250

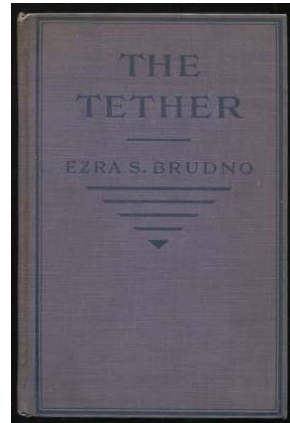
Brinig, Myron. *This Man is My Brother*. NY: Farrar & Rinehart, (c.1932). 2nd printing.



Blanchard, Lucy M. *Carita, and How She Became a Patriotic American*. Boston: The Page Company, 1918. The first of two books about

A sequel to Brinig's 1930 novel *Singermann* (see elsewhere in this catalog), centered around the return of the youngest Singermann son, Michael (clearly a stand-in for the author himself), to his Montana home, ostensibly for a family visit but also seeking material for a new book. Cited in Anthony Slide's *Lost Gay Novels*, wherein the book is praised as "compelling in its emotional strength." (As the jacket blurb carefully puts it: "The book contains, among other things, as beautiful and delicate a handling of a homosexual tragedy as has yet appeared.") Ironically, although Brinig himself was gay (and closeted throughout his life), it's not himself ("Michael") who's the gay figure in the book, but rather Michael's older brother Harry, who has stayed at home and built up the family business. This second printing is notable for including the original publisher's wrap-around band, bearing a laudatory quote from a Sinclair Lewis letter; the letter itself is reproduced on the rear jacket panel.

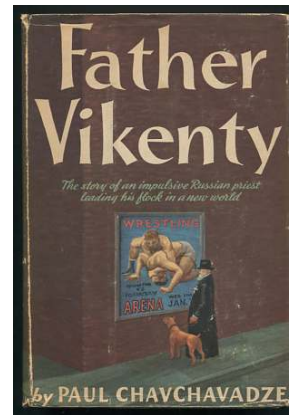
(Near Fine in a VG+ dj)
\$800



Brudno, Ezra S. *The Tether*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1908. 2nd edition.

This novel presents the "short and tragic life of a young Jewish immigrant in Boston" [Hanna 490], who abandons his father to marry an American woman, with unhappy consequences all around. The author, an immigrant from Valozhyn (present-day Belarus), was Cleveland-based attorney who did some writing on the side. His first novel, *The Fugitive*, was published in 1904, and he also contributed to *Lippincott's*

Monthly Magazine and local publication, the *Jewish Review & Observer*. See Wikipedia: "In his writings he portrayed Judaism and Jewish culture as having little value and promoted the assimilation of Jews into western civilization." (Very Good, no dust jacket)
\$100

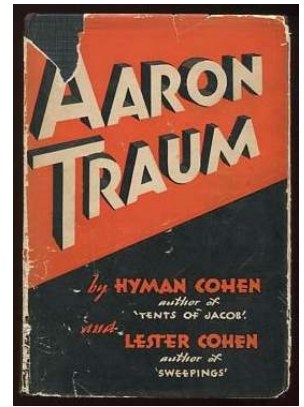


Chavchavadze, Paul.

***Father Vikenty*.** Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1955. INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the author: "To Jane Novak, / With sincere appreciation and regards, and a / promise to write another book as soon as I can. / Paul Chavchavadze / February 2, 1946." Novel about a Russian Orthodox priest in New York, who "had lost his wife and daughter in the Russian Revolution of 1917, a tragedy he did not speak of, but he had never lost his love of wrestling, a tragedy to which he often referred." The author (1899-1971), born a Russian prince, left Russia in 1918 and lived in Romania and England (where he married a Russian princess!) before settling in the U.S. in 1927. (Near Fine in a VG dj)
\$150

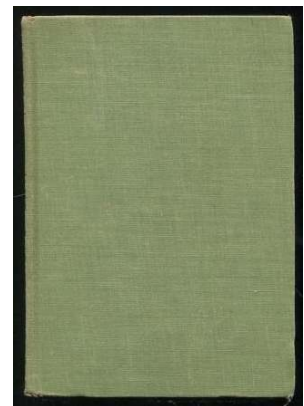
Cohen, Hyman, and Lester Cohen. *Aaron Traum*. NY: Horace Liveright, 1930. 2nd printing.

A father-son team produced this novel "about a man who started in the gutter and ended with the stars." Per a contemporary *L.A. Times* review, the narrative covers "the family making its way from Russia, where it had sprung from a rabbinical background; the hard life in the New York slums; the grandmother's terrible



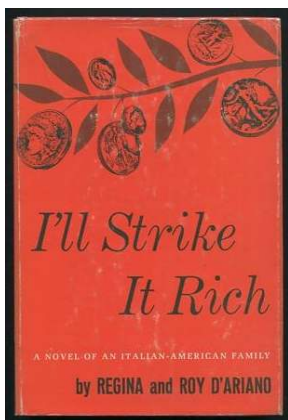
determination to give Aaron the chance to go to school; the hunger that drove him to the sweat shops and kept him there for years, despite a spirit that was ever seeking the freedom and the beauty he knew were to be found, and his final emancipation." This was Lester Cohen's third published novel, and his only collaboration with his father, a doctor upon whose experiences as an immigrant the book draws. Lester himself had a fair-to-middling career as a Hollywood writer during the 1930s.

(Very Good in a Good dj)
\$100



D'Agostino, Guido. *Olives on the Apple Tree*. NY: Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1940. Novel of inter-generational conflict in the Italian immigrant community, told through the stories of a doctor who wants to move his family out of the community and assimilate, and a newly arrived young immigrant who wants to become an American in due course, but without giving up his Italian heritage. (Good+, no dust jacket)
\$75

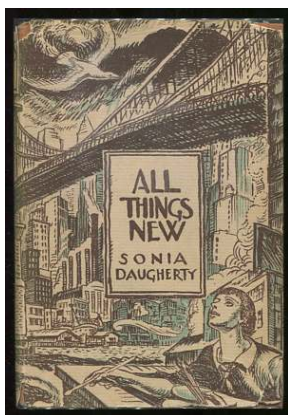
Immigrant Fiction (D - E)



D'Ariano, Regina and Roy. *I'll Strike It Rich: A Novel of an Italian-American Family.* NY: Exposition Press, (c.1963).

Vanity press novel about Timothy Salvati, who emigrates from Italy (Naples) in 1884 and struggles to find work in New York until he lands a job on a railroad-building crew. After a difficult period as an itinerant laborer, he meets and marries an American farm girl. More unemployment follows, and an unsuccessful attempt at farming back in Italy, before they return to America and settle in a West Virginia coal-mining town, where they ultimately "strike it rich" by finding fulfillment through the success of their children. The authors, a brother and sister, were immigrants themselves and were neighbors of the Salvati family.

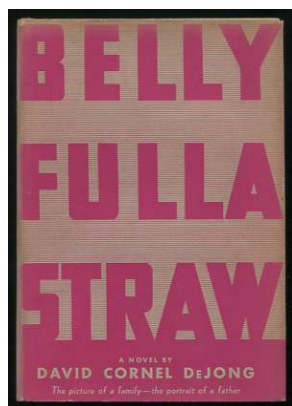
(Very Good in a like dj)
\$100



Daugherty, Sonia. *All Things New.* NY: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1936. **INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the author.** The story of a Russian girl whose family flees

the Russian revolution and comes to New York. "The tale of sixteen-year-old Masha's adjustment to America, her battle to become an artist and her gradual realization of herself as a person, is one of the most vivid and unusual books for older girls that we have read," sez the jacket blurb. Two earlier books, *Mashinka's Secret* (1932) and *The Broken Song* (1934), chronicled the experiences of Masha and her family in Russia during the period immediately preceding the Revolution; the present volume is the scarcest of the three. The author's husband, James Daugherty, who provided the chapter-head and dust jacket drawings, was a noted artist in his own right, and often illustrated her books.

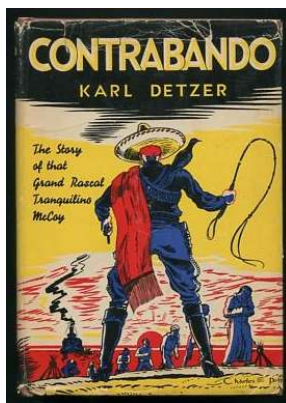
(Very Good in a like dj)
\$200



DeJong, David Cornel. *Belly Fulla Straw.* NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1934.

Novel of a Dutch immigrant family adjusting to their new lives after settling in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It's particularly rough on the father, a "sturdy, solid, practical [man], a good father and a good provider; but a man, too, of fine instincts and old-world integrity who cannot be reconciled to the cheap, vulgar babbittry of the life around him." This was the author's first novel, and is clearly autobiographical (his family came from Holland to Grand Rapids in 1914, just as did the family in the book). Over the course of his career he wrote thirteen novels, five children's books, several books of poetry and many short stories.

(Very Good in a like dj)
\$250



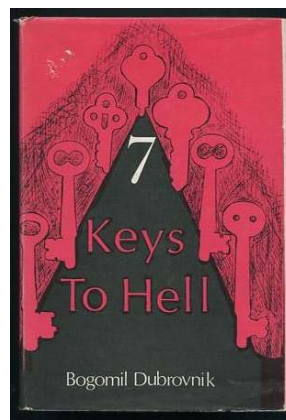
Detzer, Karl. *Contrabando.* Indianapolis/NY: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, (c.1936).

A tale of cross-border intrigue and action, set largely in California's Imperial Valley. The central figure is a powerful American rancher (with the great name of Ex Turner), who "exerts feudal rule over vast acres of oranges, grapefruit, lettuce and over multi-colored hordes of workers." This brings him into conflict with about the only two people who aren't afraid of him – his niece Alice, a "lovely chip off the old block," and Joe Carrick, a U.S. Border Patrol agent. The latter is a particular thorn in Turner's side due to his relentless pursuit of the book's most colorful character, an "Irish Mexican" with the unlikely name of Tranquilino McCoy, a human trafficker (described in the jacket blurb as "a glorious picaresque swashbuckler") who supplies Turner with his Mexican-sourced labor force.

(Very Good+ in a VG dj)
\$100

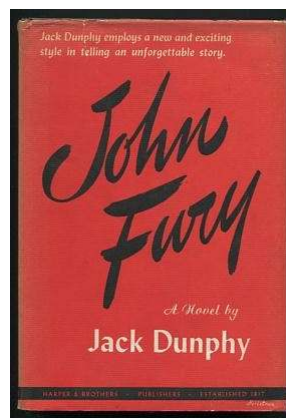
Dubrovnik, Bogomil. *Seven Keys to Hell.* NY: Vantage Press, (c.1969).

"Here is a big novel on a scale appropriate to its theme – the political life of Yugoslav-Americans in the Twentieth Century. Concentrating mainly on the years of the Second World War, [the author] writes with vigor and intensity of the grim power-struggles among ex-Yugoslavs in the United States. These are fired with all the passionate chauvinism of Balkan politics, transplanted to an explosive New World setting." It's big, all right – 789 pages! – and like many such



vanity-press novels with very specific settings, one gets the strong sense that the author was writing from personal experience. (Untypically, the jacket bears no author bio – and honestly, the name "Bogomil Dubrovnik" smells to me like a pseudonym: the Bogomils were a religious sect active in Bosnia and Herzegovina between the 10th and 14th centuries, and Dubrovnik is a prominent Croatian city.)

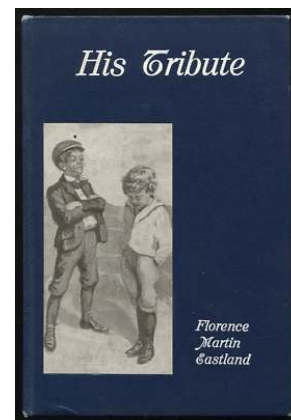
(Near Fine in a VG dj)
\$100



Dunphy, Jack. *John Fury.* NY: Harper & Brothers, (c.1946).

Philadelphia-set novel about an Irish immigrant in the early 1900s, "the tragedy of a man who had neither the understanding or the ability to control his own fate." The author was a novelist and playwright who is best remembered not for his own work (half a dozen novels and a similar number of plays), but as the longtime companion/partner of Truman Capote.

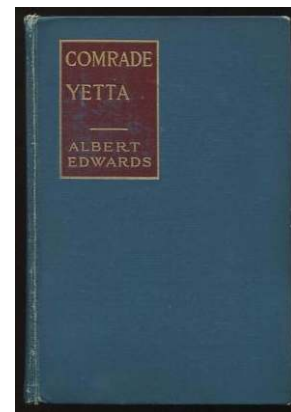
(Very Good+ in a VG dj)
\$225



Eastland, Florence Martin. *His Tribute.* Cincinnati/NY: Jennings and Graham/Eaton and Mains, (c.1909).

The story of a young English boy living with his mother in Seattle, who's very keen on learning to be an American patriot, despite the resistance of his mother, who is dead-set against him "taking up American ways," clinging as she is to the hope of someday returning to England.

(Very Good+, no dust jacket)
\$50



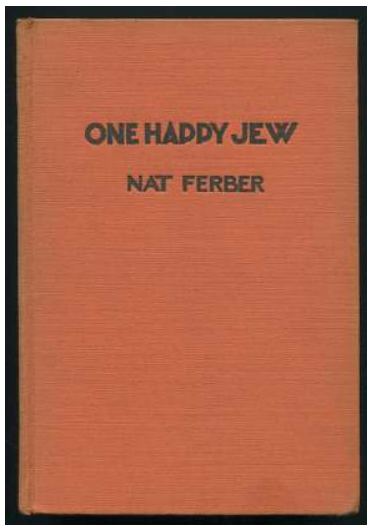
Edwards, Albert (pseud. for Arthur Bullard). *Comrade Yetta.* NY: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

Novel about a young Jewish girl on New York's Lower East Side who is forced to go to work in a garment factory after the death of her father, the owner of a second-hand bookshop. When the dreadful working conditions in the sweatshop compel her and her co-workers to strike, Yetta gets involved with the Woman's Trade Union League and its charismatic leader, which sets her on a path of transformation.

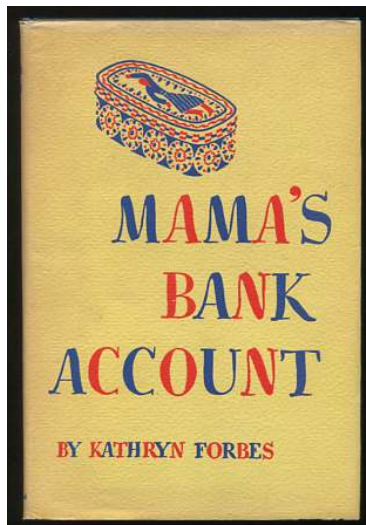
(Very Good, no dust jacket)
\$65

PLEASE NOTE that most of the book descriptions in this catalog are trimmed-down versions of longer write-ups, which can be seen in their full unexpurgated glory on our website, www.readinkbooks.com.

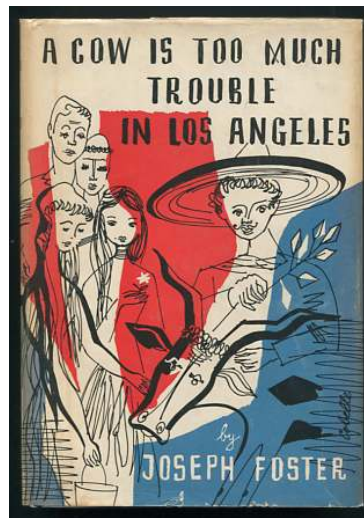
Immigrant Fiction (F)



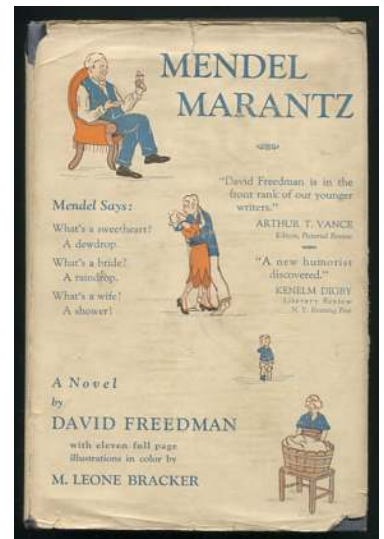
Ferber, Nat. *One Happy Jew*. NY: Farrar & Rinehart, (c.1934). **INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the author.** Novel following the Marmelsteins, a Jewish family, from their little Austrian village, to Vienna, Paris, and finally New York. The family's father resolves to take his five sons to America because he believes it to be "the one place where the Jew is spared suffering and humiliation merely because of his inevitable heritage" (which he describes elsewhere as "the curse of which they will never be rid"). Alas, four of the five ultimately turn their backs on their father's dream. The author was the one-time husband of anarchist/activist Marie Ganz, with whom he collaborated on her 1920 autobiography *Rebels* (offered elsewhere in this catalog). **(Very Good, no dust jacket)**
\$200



Forbes, Kathryn (pseud. for Kathryn Anderson McLean). *Mama's Bank Account*. NY: Harcourt, Brace & Co., (c.1943). Later printing. The term "heart-warming" might as well have been invented to describe this episodic book about the Americanization of a Norwegian family in old-time San Francisco, not to mention (although I will) its numerous adaptations, including a play and movie (both as *I Remember Mama*) and a '50s TV series ("Mama") The original story, "Mama and Her Bank Account," had gained wide attention by its appearance in the February 1941 issue of *The Reader's Digest*. This is a 1944 printing with a much nicer than average example of the wear-prone dust jacket, price-clipping notwithstanding. **(VG+ in a like price-clipped dj)**
\$150

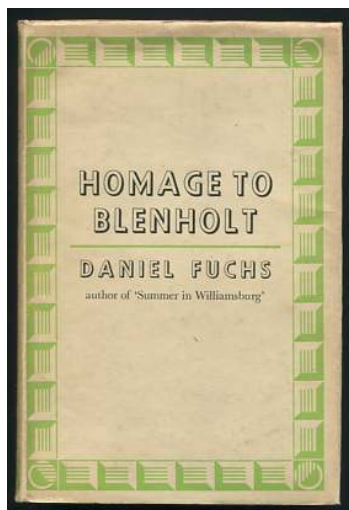
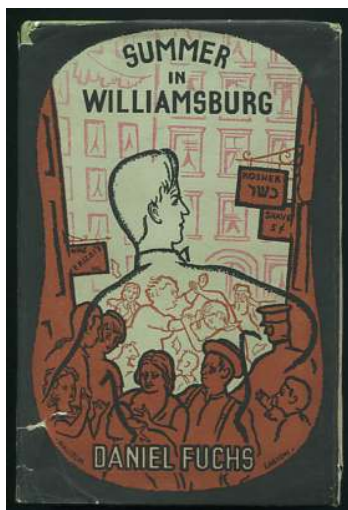


Foster, Joseph. *A Cow is Too Much Trouble in Los Angeles*. NY/Boston: Duell, Sloan and Pearce/Little, Brown and Company, (c.1952). The story of a Mexican family who is flooded out of their hardscrabble little rancho, and decides to cross the border into the U.S. as "wetbacks," with the help of their happy-go-lucky Uncle Ambrose. They settle in Los Angeles, where all four children get jobs, but where everybody has trouble adjusting to urban American life; they react by "cleaving all the more violently to their simple, reverent ways" (except for the brother who becomes a zoot-suited Pachuco) and the father sends to Mexico for their cow, "the last vestige of the life and the culture they had foregone." **(Very Good+ in a VG dj)**
\$100



Freedman, David. *Mendel Marantz*. NY/London: Harper & Brothers, 1926. Later printing. Comic novel set in New York's Lower East Side, centered around a family whose father, Mendel, is "the essence of laziness," whose firm resolve is "to lead a life without drudgery" by using (in his estimation) the brains God gave him. He's a philosophical dreamer and a would-be inventor, who "pays the landlord with jokes" (of which this book contains at least one per page), while his long-suffering wife Zelde frets like only a stereotypical Jewish wife and mother can fret – about the looming spectre of poverty, the unmarried condition of their daughter Sarah, and so on. **Oy!** **(Very Good+ in a Good dj)**
\$100

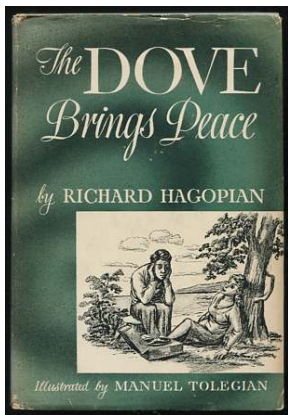
"The Williamsburg Trilogy," by Daniel Fuchs. The British first editions.



Fuchs, Daniel. *Summer in Williamsburg*. London: Constable, 1935. *Homage to Blenholt*. London: Constable, 1936. *Neptune Beach [US title: Low Company]*. London: Constable, 1937. The British first editions of the author's "trilogy" of lower-class Jewish-American life in Brooklyn (which even Fuchs himself denied was a proper trilogy; it just happened that he wrote three novels – critically-praised but commercially unsuccessful – before decamping for Hollywood and that relatively-easy movie money). Since being reprinted in an omnibus volume in 1961, however, the works have only grown in critical estimation. **(Summer and Neptune: VG in like jackets)** **(Homage: VG+ in a like jacket)**
\$2500, the set

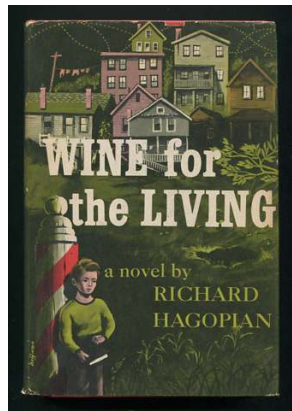


Immigrant Fiction (H - L)

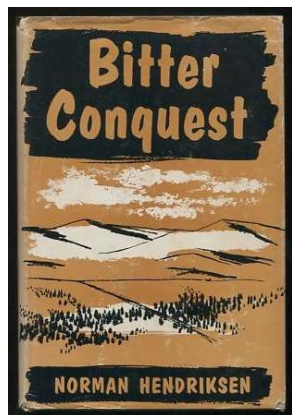


never relents after they go against her wishes.” The author himself (surprise!) was of Armenian heritage, and grew up in Massachusetts; this was the last of his three published novels, all of which drew on his background.

(Very Good+ in a like dj)
\$75



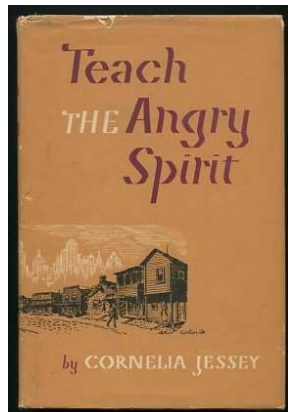
Hagopian, Richard. *The Dove Brings Peace.* NY: Farrar & Rinehart, (c.1944). **SIGNED by the author on the front endpaper.** The author’s first book, set in an Armenian immigrant community. Usually called a novel, but described more accurately in a contemporary review as “a series of disconnected stories based mainly upon [the author’s] childhood experiences, and those of his brothers, sisters, parents, cousins and friends.” In a widely-syndicated review, critic John Selby compared Hagopian to his fellow (and at that time very famous) Armenian, William Saroyan: “The book is a charming performance in the first place. But it also makes one think. It makes one think that perhaps William Saroyan is not a genius as he and others insist he is, but only an Armenian. Maybe any gifted, literate Armenian can turn out these stories.” (Saroyan’s reaction to this review is unrecorded, as far as I know, but might well have been explosive!)
(Very Good+ in a like dj)
\$50



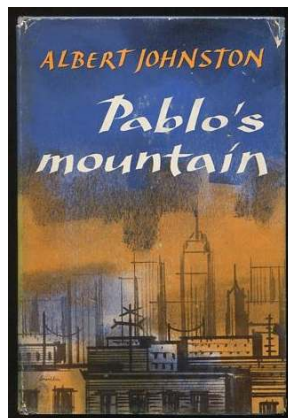
Hendriksen, Norman. *Bitter Conquest.* NY: Vantage Press, (c.1957). Vanity press novel about a group of Norwegian immigrants settling in northern California in 1900. The primary character is Jon Nordahl, the second son of one of the families in the group, whose life experiences seem to (unsurprisingly) track pretty closely to those of the author, who was (also unsurprisingly) a member of an organization called the Sons of Norway.
(Near Fine in a VG dj)
\$60

Jessey, Cornelia. *Teach the Angry Spirit.* NY: Crown Publishers, (c.1949). Scarce novel set in Los Angeles’ “Mexicantown,” about three young Mexican-Americans, all

of whom are grappling with cultural self-identity issues: Ángel García, who wants to be an actor but is denied a role in



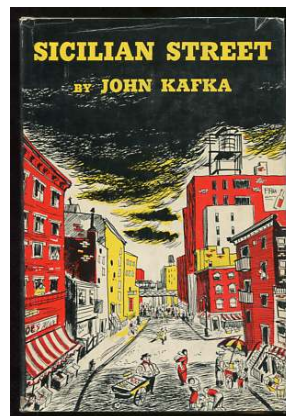
his school production of “Our Town” because of his otherness; his sister Mercy, who rejects all things Mexican and is involved with an “American” (i.e. white) suitor; and their friend Bernardo, who’s in love with Mercy but embittered about racial injustice. The story takes place in the early 1940s, during World War II – the Sleepy Lagoon murder (1942) is referenced, and the Zoot Suit Riots (1943) unfold over several chapters in the latter part of the book – but the war itself seems to go unmentioned. The author’s only other novel, *The Growing Roots*, published two years earlier, dealt with anti-Semitism in America and its effect on a Russian Jewish family.
(Very Good+ in a VG dj)
\$200



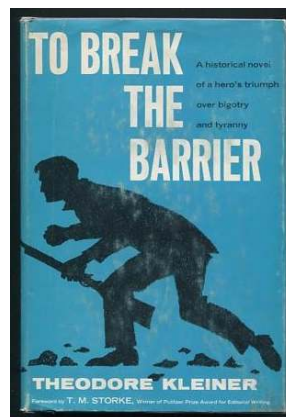
Johnston, Albert. *Pablo’s Mountain.* NY: Crown Publishers, (c.1953). Novel about a Mexican family that settles in New York’s Spanish Harlem. “It was a close-knit family, devoted and

loving. With high hopes they all set out to make a new home for themselves. But the city was crowded and cruel. New York seemed to have saved all its heartaches, disappointments and disillusionments for the gentle Mexicans, who were overwhelmed by its hardness, violence and vice.” The first (and apparently only) novel by this author, who was then a story editor for Columbia Pictures in New York.

(Very Good+ in a Good dj)
\$50



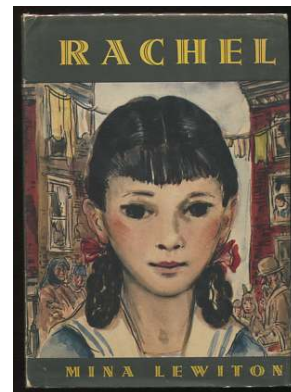
Kafka, John. *Sicilian Street.* NY: Coward-McCann, (c.1949) “The story of the Piazza, a street near the East River in the Italian Quarter of upper New York, where the entire population descends from the same little town in Sicily.” The author (aka Hans Kafka, but apparently no relation to you-know-who) was Viennese, and was best-known as a screenwriter in the U.S. during the 1940s and 1950s.
(Very Good+ in a VG dj)
\$65



Kleiner, Theodore. *To Break the Barrier: A Historical Novel of a Hero’s Triumph Over Bigotry and Tyranny.* NY: Exposition Press, (c.1962).

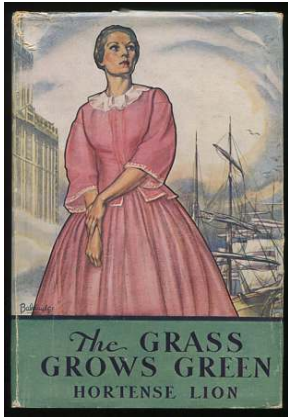
SIGNED and DATED by the author on the front endpaper, beneath the following generic inscription: “a gift from S.G. / Enterprises, Inc. / Hope you’ll enjoy / reading my novel.” A multi-generational novel about a family of Polish Jews and their descendants. It begins in 1861 with the Polish rebellion against Russian domination; when the family patriarch is exiled to Siberia, his son escapes to America, where he marries a gentile girl. They attempt to raise their son “with equal exposure to Judaism and Christianity,” but a meddling Christian grandmother (mother-in-law of the Jewish son) butts in and brings the kid up as a Christian – but even though he also subsequently marries a Christian girl, he still suffers “the scourge of anti-Semitism.”

(Very Good in a VG- dj)
\$40



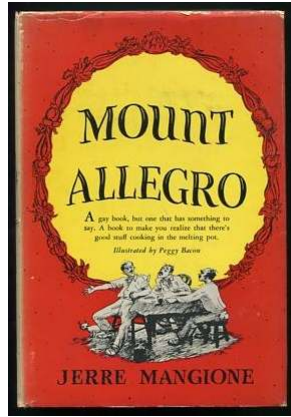
Lewiton, Mina. *Rachel.* NY: Franklin Watts, (c.1954) Novel for young readers (age 9 and up) about a young Jewish girl living happily on New York’s Lower East Side, but who’s distressed at the prospect of her father moving the family “Uptown” in order to pursue a business opportunity. (Opening a bookstore – the fool!) The book’s illustrator, Howard Simon, was the author’s husband. A sequel, *Rachel and Herman*, was published in 1957.
(Near Fine in a VG+ dj)
\$125

Immigrant Fiction (L - M)

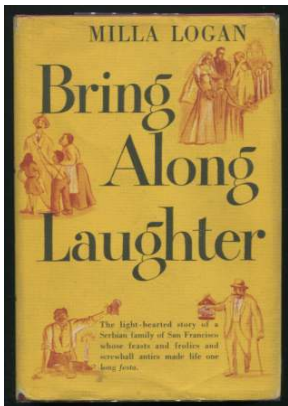


Lion, Hortense. *The Grass Grows Green.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, (c.1935). Later printing. The first novel by this Hunter College/Columbia University alum, about a Bavarian family that leaves Europe in the middle of World War I “to seek in the New World the peace and humanity that the Old World seemed to deny them.” An infrequent novelist (she published only two more following this one, in 1941 and 1966), the author also had a long career in advertising and as a ghost-writer. **(Very Good+ in a VG dj) \$200**

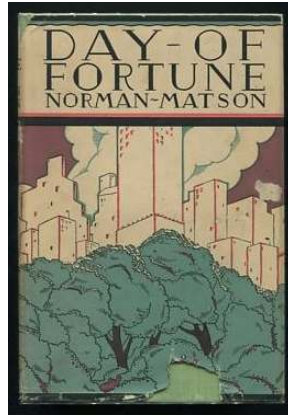
The *New York Times* critic observed that Logan's characters “don't have the sweetness-and-light coating of Saroyan's Armenians or the quiet faith of Esther Forbes' Norwegians, but they are a good deal funnier.” **(Very Good+ in a VG dj) \$100**



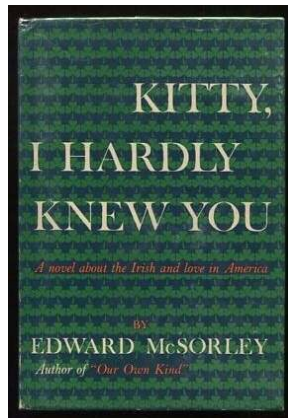
Mangione, Jerre. *Mount Allegro.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1943. “An entertaining and affectionate book about the spectacle of people of an old race in the process of becoming the life blood of a new Nation.” The author's autobiographical chronicle of his youth in a Sicilian community in Rochester, New York, is a classic of American ethnic literature, called by one critic “one of the truly enduring books about the immigrant experience in this country.” Mangione wrote the book as a nonfiction work, but his publisher insisted it would sell better if marketed as fiction. The author acquiesced, but only to the extent of changing the names of the characters and inserting this disclaimer: “The characters in this book are fictitious, and have fictitious names. Anyone who thinks he recognizes himself in it is kindly asked to bear that in mind.” Mangione later became a professor of literature at the University of Pennsylvania, and wrote (among other books) a very good history of the WPA Federal Writers' Project (in which he had been a participant himself, briefly, in the late 1930s), *The Dream and the Deal*, published in 1972. (Oh, and renowned jazzman Chuck Mangione is his nephew.) **(Very Good+ in a VG dj) \$100**



Logan, Mila. *Bring Along Laughter.* NY: Random House, (c.1947). “The light-hearted story of a Serbian family of San Francisco whose feasts and frolics and screwball antics made life one long festa. Even the great San Francisco earthquake did not daunt them, for they had carried from the old country, along with trunks full of family pictures and relics, a light baggage of laughter to help them adjust to the unfamiliar ways of America.”

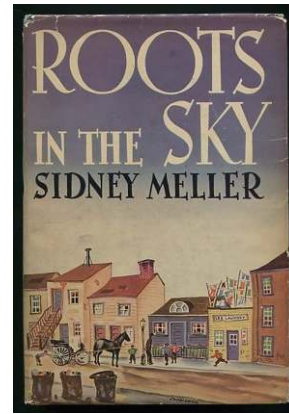


Matson, Norman. *Day of Fortune.* NY: The Century Co., 1928. 2nd printing. “The story of a Norwegian-American family, from the severing of its roots in Norway until its final breaking up in San Francisco,” told primarily from the perspective of the family's children. “With an uncanny insight into the thoughts and occupations of childhood, [the author] has etched the thousand and one little incidents, minor tragedies, daily adventures and discoveries that fill the lives of youngsters who are thrown pretty much on their own resources to amuse themselves.” Some of the book's most interesting passages occur when labor troubles force the family to move west, and make it necessary for 15-year-old Peter to get a job. **(Near Fine in a VG- dj) \$150**

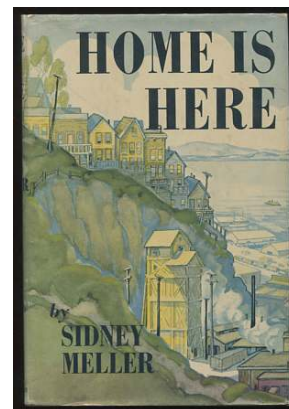


McSorley, Edward. *Kitty, I Hardly Knew You.* Garden City NY: Doubleday & Company, 1959. Novel about a young Irish couple, immigrants to America, “their desperate struggles to adapt to a bewildering new world, their love for each other, and their pursuit of a dream.”

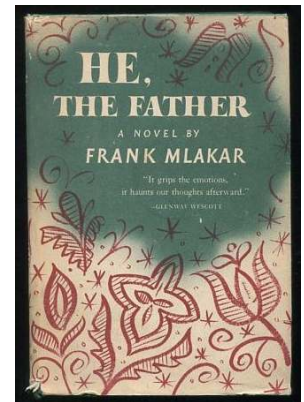
McSorley (1902-1966), a native of Providence, Rhode Island, was probably best known for his provocative first novel, *Our Own Kind*, published in 1946, about growing up Irish in Rhode Island in the early part of the 20th century. He wrote several more novels about the Irish-American experience, but none achieved the notoriety or success of the first. One contemporary critic opined that McSorley “flings about his Gaelic pessimism in a style to echo Joyce and O'Casey at their darkest.” **(Near Fine in a VG+ dj) \$100**



Meller, Sidney. *Roots in the Sky.* NY: The Macmillan Company, (c.1938). Novel about a family of Russian Jews – a scholar, Elchanan Drobnen, his wife, and their daughter – who settle in San Francisco in the period just after the 1906 earthquake. “In the strange land of street cars, gold and no heart, five more children are born, and the Drobzens live through periods of poverty, strange and sudden opulence, the bitterness of failure, and the hope of success.” **(Very Good+ in a VG dj) \$100**

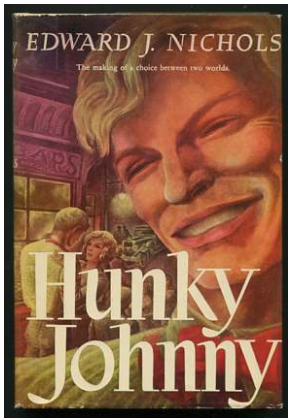


Meller, Sidney. *Home is Here.* NY: The Macmillan Company, 1941. 2nd printing. Novel about an Italian immigrant who settles on Telegraph Hill in San Francisco and sends for his wife and children, back in Lombardy, to join him. Although she at first objects to coming to America, his wife Lucia “proves to be humorous and full of common sense, and, though shy, she makes friends with the other Italians – and Irish – on Telegraph Hill. The greater part of the novel tells of the feuds and scandals, births and deaths, christenings and fiestas of these people, the human stuff of life.” **(Very Good+ in a like dj) \$75**

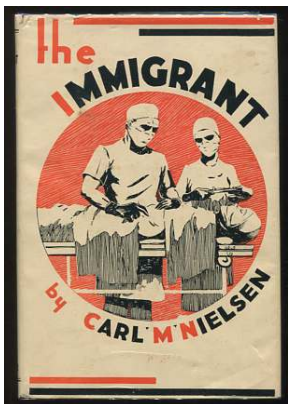


Mlakar, Frank. *He, the Father.* NY: Harper & Brothers, (c.1950). Novel about a young Slovenian couple whose “flight from the claims of blood and conscience” compel them to emigrate to America. The man, Osip, had “committed a crime, so primitive and taboo in character that it revolted even the peasant people who had known him from childhood [and] branded him forever as a pariah.” (He assaulted his father and stole his life savings.) The immigrants pass quickly through New York on their way to “Cuyahoga City” (a fictional stand-in for Cleveland) and settle in an area called the Chicken Village, described as the “capital of all the Slovenian immigrants in America.” (The author himself was born in Cleveland in 1913, of Slovenian parentage, and spoke only Slovenian until he began attending school.) **(Very Good in a like dj) \$250**

Immigrant Fiction (N - R)

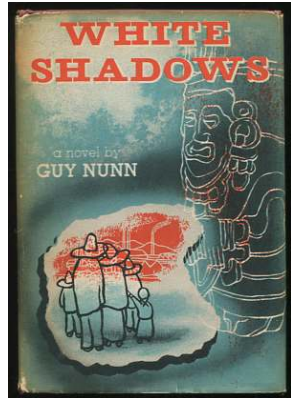


Nichols, Edward J. *Hunky Johnny*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1945. **SIGNED by the author.** Novel about a young Jewish man from the Slovak community of Gary, Indiana, who has seemingly escaped the circumstances of his background by becoming a college man (and a football hero) instead of going to work in the steel mills. Returning home for the summer after his graduation, however, he struggles to reconcile "his American citizenry and his foreign origins." Realizing that he's now just another "foreigner" looking for a job, he faces a choice between staying with his own kind – marrying a girl from the old neighborhood and going into the bootlegging business with his brother – or pursuing his dream of securing a teaching or coaching job (which might involve changing his surname from Opalko) and getting together with the more upper-crusty girl he met at school. (Near Fine in a like dj) \$200

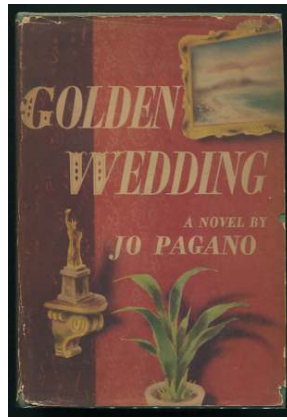


Nielsen, Carl M. *The Immigrant*. Boston: Meador Publishing Company, 1942. "This is a story of a young man

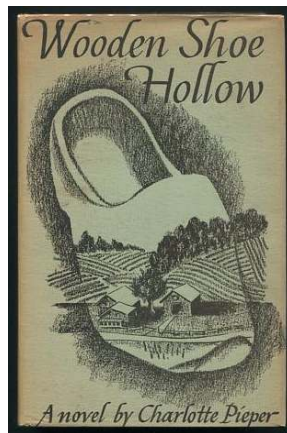
who immigrates to the United States [from Sweden] in search of the uncertain." After arriving in the U.S., where he has relatives, he enlists in the U.S. Army and serves in the Philippines during the Insurrection; upon his discharge, he goes to medical school and eventually becomes a successful doctor. Quite scarce; OCLC records only five library copies. (Near Fine in a VG+ dj) \$150



Nunn, Guy. *White Shadows*. NY: Reynal & Hitchcock, (c.1947). This "hard hitting, stimulating novel which tackles one of America's most immediate and vexing problems, the struggle of the Mexican-born to acquire the full status and dignity of citizenship" was one of the earliest American novels to center around the legal status of Mexican immigrants to the U.S. It involves a moderately successful Mexican farmer who runs afoul of some powerful landowners and is forced to smuggle his family across the border "into America, the fabulous land of freedom, school and jobs." The reality is less enchanting: after an initial stint working in for a copper mining outfit in El Paso, he moves on "to the labor-hungry fields and vineyards of California," eventually settling with some success into "a gulleyside community on the fringe of Los Angeles" (which seems to be situated around East L.A., but for all intents and purposes sounds like a stand-in for Chavez Ravine). (Very Good+ in a VG dj) \$100

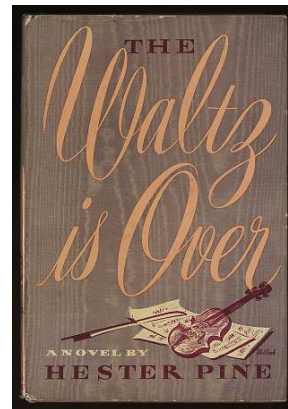


Pagano, Jo. *Golden Wedding*. NY: Random House, (c.1943) Pagano's second novel, continuing the story of the Italian-American Simone family (from his first book, *The Paesanos*, offered elsewhere in this catalog), a fictionalized version of the author's own clan. By the time Luigi and Marietta celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, Luigi, formerly a Colorado coal miner, has become the owner of a successful fruit and vegetable market, and their children have married and made their own lives: one as a prize fighter, another as an artist. Pagano was better-known (and more prolific) as a screenwriter than as a novelist, with sixteen feature films and several dozen TV series episodes to his credit between 1938 and 1969, over which time he published just three novels. (Very Good+ in a VG dj) \$125

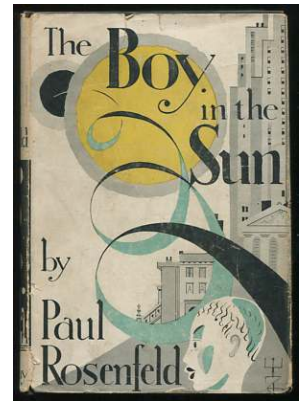


Pieper, Charlotte. *Wooden Shoe Hollow*. NY: Exposition Press, (c.1951). **SIGNED by the author.** Vanity-press novel about a woman who emigrates from

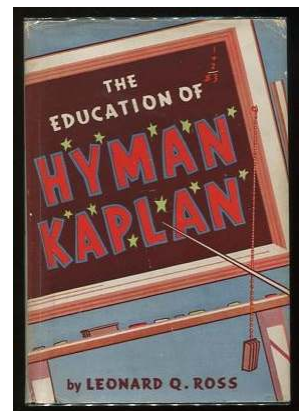
Germany to the U.S. "to escape a loveless marriage forced upon her by an insensitive father"; a chance encounter aboard ship leads her to settle in the titular colony, "a primitive community of German-American farmers" located near Cincinnati, Ohio. (It's actually a real place, located about seven miles from downtown Cincinnati, and the author herself, unsurprisingly, was born in the city.) The book, which incorporates a "wealth of folklore" related to the German-American community, got a great deal of local attention at the time of its original publication, and has retained enough historical and cultural interest to have occasioned a second edition, with added contextual material, maps, etc., in 2004. (Very Good in a like dj) \$50



Pine, Hester. *The Waltz is Over*. NY: Farrar & Rinehart, (c.1943). "The story of Marta Nordlander, who came from Austria to America three generations ago [and] of her family since then and of how it last became an American family." The somewhat mysterious Hester Pine published three novels in quick succession in 1939-1940 (all in something of a Dawn Powell-ish vein), then came out with this one, after which – poof! The jacket blurb on her first book claimed that she'd already been a ballerina, an actress, a foreign correspondent, a doctor's receptionist, a Sunday School teacher, a photographer's model, and a choir singer, and that she was "still married to her original husband," but I've been unable to independently confirm any of that. (Very Good+ in a like dj) \$200

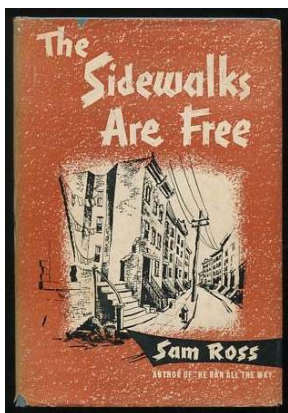


Rosenfeld, Paul. *The Boy in the Sun*. NY: The Macaulay Company, 1928. An autobiographical novel by an author best known as a music critic and, from 1927 to 1935, an editor for *The American Caravan*, a yearbook of American literature. From the jacket blurb: "In this moving, psychological portrait of an embryonic artist, the author has expressed the tragic conflict between an humiliated father and his impressionable son." (Very Good+ in a Good dj) \$300



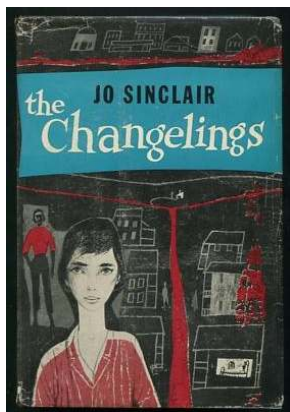
Ross, Leonard Q. (pseud. for Leo Rosten). *The Education of H*y*m*a*n* K*a*p*l*a*n.** NY: Harcourt, Brace & Co., (c.1937). **INSCRIBED, SIGNED and DATED by the author** (as "Leonard Q. Ross") Rosten's first book, a classic of Jewish-American comic literature, collecting 15 of his stories about Hyman Kaplan, an immigrant whose Yiddish-infused mangling of the English language had delighted readers of *The New Yorker* since 1935. (Very Good in a VG+ dj) \$250

Immigrant Fiction (R - V)

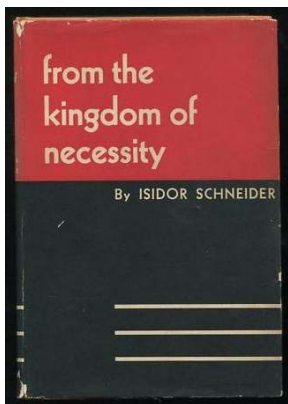


Ross, Sam. *The Sidewalks Are Free.* NY: Farrar, Straus and Company, (c.1950). **INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the author** – but you gotta look for it (it's upside down on the rear endpaper). Novel about a young immigrant, “Hershy Melov, born in the Ukraine, brought as an infant to America to grow up in northwest Chicago. The sidewalks were free and waiting to educate Hershy. He absorbed it all, from his schoolmates, from the milkman and the storekeepers, from his sister Rachel who fell in love with the bully of the neighborhood, from his Uncle Yussel who did not come back from the war but left them the doubtful blessing of his insurance money, from his father’s troubles in the carpentering trade and from the family’s ill-fated venture into the laundry business.” Ross is best known for first novel, *He Ran All the Way* (1947), which was made into a pretty good movie starring John Garfield in 1951. **(Very Good+ in a VG- dj)** \$60

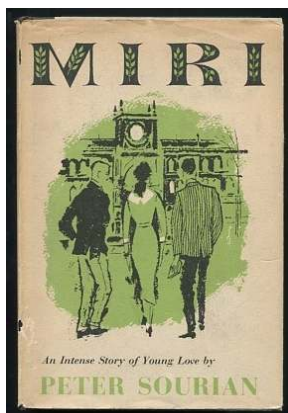
An autobiographical novel, summarized nicely in the Simone bibliography of immigrant lit: “Morris Hyman and his family, including five-year-old Isaac, leave their Polish village in 1900 for New York, where Morris gets then loses his factory job and becomes a janitor, while his wife takes in boarders. Isaac rejects his father’s religious orthodoxy, and though he wants to be a writer, because of his pacifism during World War I, which leads to his involvement in the labor unions, he does not go to college but decides to remain in the working class.” The author, per an academic quoted on Wikipedia, specialized in “full-fledged, narrative, descriptive Communist poetry – poetry that was meant to summon people of the working class to not only take a place in the social scene and demand their rights but to a poetry that they could read.” **(Near Fine in a VG dj)** \$200



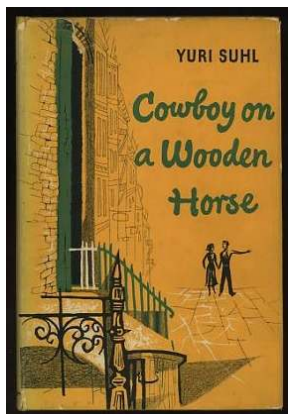
Sinclair, Jo. *The Changelings.* NY: McGraw-Hill Book Co., (c.1955). Novel about “a block of two-family houses in a dying neighborhood, inhabited by first-generation Jewish working-class families and a family of Italian immigrants.” The shared concern of these groups, however, is not each other but rather with the looming peril of “white flight” related to a different sort of immigration: “It is still a white neighborhood, but the Negroes are creeping closer to its borders.” The city in which the novel is set is left unspecified, although one character does declare at one point that “this isn't Russia – it's Ohio.” **(Very Good+ in a VG dj)** \$100



Schneider, Isidor. *From the Kingdom of Necessity.* NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, (c.1935).

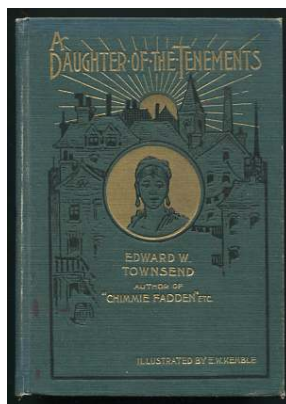


Soubian, Peter. *Miri.* NY: Pantheon, (c.1957). Novel about three college students and their “turbulent world of first passions,” with a Rashomon-y narrative structure, the same story being told from the p.o.v. of each. The title character, Miri, is “a girl whose parents perished in Greece during the war [and] has been brought to America by a rich uncle, a Greek immigrant spectacularly successful in the shipping business” (and whose prodigal son is one of the other students). The jacket blurb states that “the Greek-American milieu, with its masterful men, its submissive women, the closeness of its family ties and the warmth of its atmosphere, is brilliantly brought to life.” The first novel by this Greek-American author, who went on to become a prominent academic and critic. **(Very Good+ in a VG dj)** \$65



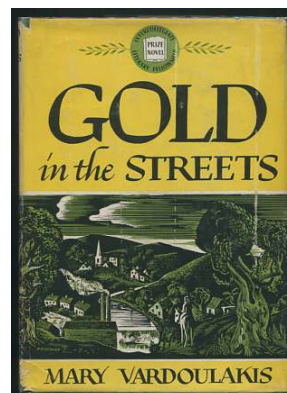
Suhl, Yuri. *Cowboy on a Wooden Horse.* NY: The Macmillan Company, 1953. **SIGNED and DATED by the author**, with an additional gift inscription in another hand. “Sol Kenner, the immigrant boy from Pedayetz, Galicia, has been in

America for nearly four years and is now holding down a job during the day, going to high school at night and keeping company with an American girl.” His job, in an upholstery shop, gets him involved in labor union matters, and he finds the relative sophistication of his 17-year-old girlfriend a bit bewildering, as does his old-fashioned Talmud-studying father. (Galicia, in case you're wondering, is a region spanning present-day western Ukraine and southeastern Poland.) **(Very Good in a like dj)** \$45

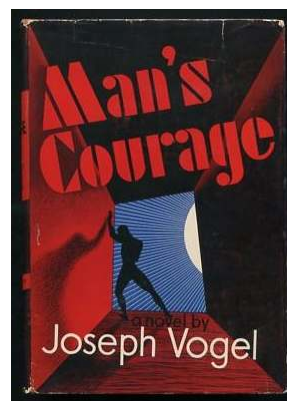


Townsend, Edward W. *A Daughter of the Tenements.* NY: Lovell, Coryell & Company, (c.1895). First edition (second issue). The author’s first full-length novel, centered around a young Italian immigrant girl who finds success as a dancer after having worked various menial jobs (fruit seller, sweatshop worker). (This is the second issue, featuring the addition of a dedication and table of contents.) Townsend, a New York newspaperman at the time, was already well known for his “Chimmie Fadden” stories; these were dramatized for the stage, and the character was later featured in a number of silent film comedies. **(Very Good+, no dust jacket)** \$50

Vardoulakis, Mary. *Gold in the Streets.* NY: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1945. Novel about three Greek peasants “who came to America in the early 1900's to the mills of Massachusetts with the hope of gathering enough of the fabulous gold in its streets to return as



princes to their olive-crowned Island of Crete.” Although initially disillusioned by their experiences in America (starting with an unhospitable reception at Ellis Island) and despite the hostility displayed toward them by earlier Polish immigrants working at the mills, two of the three decide to stay in the U.S. permanently. Other family members come over to join them, and the Greek community grows and flourishes. **(Very Good+ in a VG dj)** \$75

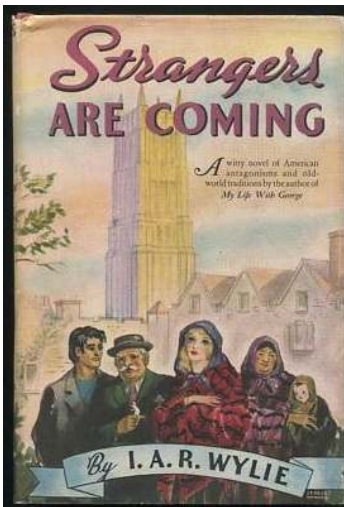
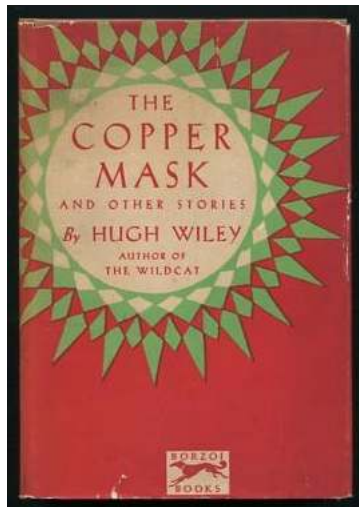


Vogel, Joseph. *Man's Courage.* NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1938. The author’s second novel, about “a simple family in a small American city” (a thinly-disguised Utica, New York) coping with the Great Depression. The focus of the story is on a Polish immigrant, Adam Wolak, whose love of the soil “lured him to America, sustained him during the first years of labor, and now goads him to find some way out of the maze of city life and unemployment in which he seems eternally trapped.” **(Near Fine in a VG dj)** \$750

Immigrant Fiction (Wiley - Wylie)

Wiley, Hugh. *The Copper Mask, and other stories.* NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1932.

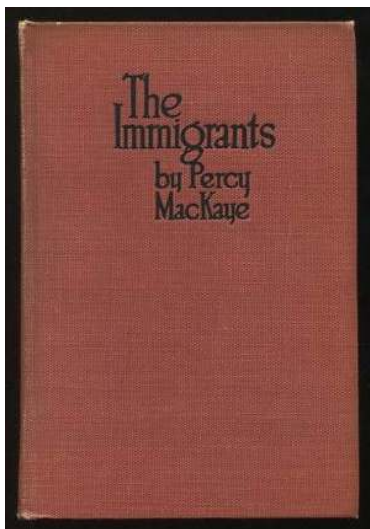
“Stories about the Chinese of San Francisco written with all the authority of one who has known them intimately. The book abounds in the mysterious thrills that are peculiar to the Sons of Han – dark tales of tong wars and opium smuggling, tales reeking of incense, blood and laughter. Chinese revenge is swift and Chinese humor is refreshing.” Wiley, a white guy from Zanesville, Ohio, was a prolific short-story writer who had two particular specialties, Chinese stories and Negro stories; no doubt the blurb-writers for the latter issued similar praise for the author’s “authority and intimacy.” A couple of years after this volume appeared, Wiley published the first of twenty short stories about a fictional Chinese-American detective named James Lee Wong, better known as the B-movie protagonist “Mr. Wong, Detective” (usually played by Englishman Boris Karloff).
(Very Good+ in a Very Good dj)
\$200



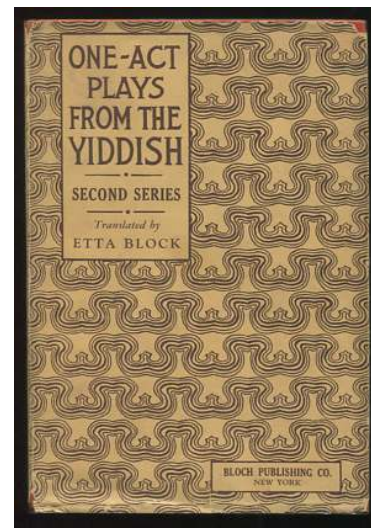
Wylie, I.A.R. *Strangers Are Coming.* NY: Random House, (c.1941).

This “witty novel of American antagonisms and old-world traditions” is also “a delightful satire on life in an American college town [and] a stirring statement for the case of the war sufferers in our midst.” The plot concerns a college football hero (and heir to some kind of fortune) who happens to be visiting Warsaw when the Nazis invade, and finds himself in a position to rescue the “Stanowski Troupe,” a motley and informal group of occasional performers, headlined by an old-time magician and including a young and beautiful Princess of unknown nationality. The young man brings them back to his hometown, which causes quite a commotion both in the community and within his tradition-bound family.
(Near Fine in a Very Good+ dj)
\$100

...and how about a little Drama to liven things up?



(Images above and below are for illustration purposes only – not items for sale!)

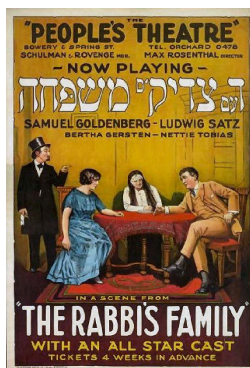


MacKaye, Percy. *The Immigrants: A Lyric Drama.* NY: B.W. Huebsch, 1915.

Dramatic piece portraying “the incoming alien as a human being with elemental emotions, sympathies and tragedies like our own; presenting him first in his native land as the prey of greedy representatives of international business interests, and then as an incoming immigrant, moved – like our own ancestors – to cast in his lot with the land of freedom in the hope of better things.” Forgotten today, MacKaye was a fairly big deal as both a playwright and a poet in the early twentieth century. This particular piece, about an Italian immigrant, doesn’t appear to have ever been given a New York staging, although about a dozen of his other works were, mostly prior to 1920.

(Very Good, no dust jacket)

\$60



Peretz, Isaac Loeb, et al. (translated by Etta Block). *One-Act Plays from the Yiddish: Second Series.* NY: Bloch Publishing Company, 1929.

Although these seven one-act plays aren't specifically immigrant-themed, they represent the kind of fare presented within New York's thriving Yiddish theatre community during the early decades of the twentieth century. In particular, the works of Isaac Loeb Peretz (author of three of the seven) were very popular; he is now regarded as one of the greatest classical Yiddish writers. In addition to Peretz's works, there are two pieces by Perez Hirschbein and one each by Abraham Raisen and F. Bimko, plus a Prologue, “The Theater Goer,” by Mosche Nadir, a first-person narrative expressing the mindset of “the average theater goer.”

(Very Good+ in a Very Good dust jacket)

\$75

A Sort of an Index to Some of this Catalog

I like my printed catalogs to be like my favored bookshops: full of interesting books, somewhat eccentrically arranged, and above all not too organized. I love browsing – I mean *really* browsing – and I honestly get a little turned off by shops where every section is clearly labeled, all the books are correctly categorized, and upright, and even *alphabetized*, for God’s sake. If you’re only popping in on your way to Starbuck’s, and are only in search of that particular book that was just glowingly reviewed by the *Times*, then you will probably be well-served by such an establishment: either it will fulfill your needs efficiently, or fail to do so, but with equal efficiency. But such organizational nirvana severely diminishes a shop’s potential for the *thrill of discovery*, which for me (as both a book hound and a bookseller) is 98% of the reason I go into a given bookshop at all.

In this spirit, when it comes to my printed catalogs I generally eschew any sort of numbering scheme – no page numbers, no item numbers. I have occasionally been criticized for this, but I don’t care. It obviously makes any sort of indexing rather a challenge, but that’s OK with me. As this one exemplifies, my catalogs are organized around themed pages, with my intent being to make the experience of flipping through them a little like browsing in a shop that’s *somewhat* organized, in a quirky and eccentric (but not entirely unhelpful) way. My “themes” tend to be a little playful, because I want my catalogs to be, above all, *fun* to look through. (Are you having fun yet?)

All of which brings me to this Index. The main thing to know is that it’s only an index (by origin country or ethnicity) to the “**Immigrant Fiction**” section (with occasional references to other pages on which related novels appear), not the whole catalog. References are to authors’ last names, since that section is arranged alphabetically. Since the topic is immigration, the rationale for indexing books by nationality is obvious enough, so I won’t belabor it. And because the non-fiction books are *somewhat* organized by theme (and because their titles often clue you in to what they’re about, which is definitely not the case with novels), I haven’t included them in my indexing. So if you’re interested in fiction about a particular nationality or ethnic group, here’s something that will help you find it. Otherwise, please continue browsing . . . and enjoy yourself.

Armenia

Hagopian

Austria

Ferber, Pine

Bavaria

Lion

Belarus

 [see also: “From Beyond the Pale”]

Brudno

Bohemia

 (part of present-day Czech Republic)

Anthony

Carniola

 (part of present-day Slovenia)

Adamic

China

 [see also: “From Across the Pacific”]

Wiley

Czechoslovakia

Anthony [Bohemia]

England

Eastland

Galicia

 (part of present-day Poland and Ukraine)

Suhl

Germany

 [see also: “In the Sticks”]

Abrams, Anthony, Bercovici, Pieper

Greece

Soubian, Vardoulakis

Holland

DeJong

Ireland

 [see also: “From the Emerald Isle”]

Breslin, Dunphy, McSorley

Italy

 [see also: “From the Mediterranean”]

Ball, D’Agostino, D’Ariano, Kafka, Mangione, Meller, Pagano, Sinclair, Townsend; also MacKaye (at end of Fiction section)

Jewish Americans

 [see also: “The Jews Come to America”; “Anzia!”; “In the City”]

Abrahams, Abrams, Brinig, Brudno, Edwards, Ferber, Freedman, Fuchs, Lewiton, Rosenfeld, Ross (Leonard), Sinclair; also Peretz (at end of Fiction section)

Mexico

 [see also: “From South of the Border”]

Blanchard, Detzer, Foster, Jessey, Johnston, Nunn

Norway

Forbes, Hendrikson, Matson

Poland

 [see also: “From Beyond the Pale”; “Anzia!”; “In the Sticks”]

Algren, Kleiner, Schneider, Suhl [Galicia], Vogel, Wylie

Romania

 [see also: “The Jews Come to America”]

Bercovici,

Russia

 [see also: “From Beyond the Pale”; “In the Sticks”]

Chavchavdze, Cohen, Daugherty, Meller

Serbia

Logan

Slovakia

Nichols

Slovenia

Adamic [Carniola], Mlakar

Sweden

Nielsen

Ukraine

 [see also: “The Jews Come to America”]

Ross (Sam), Suhl [Galicia]

Yugoslavia

Dubrovnik

Non-Fiction (General)

NOTE that in the interest of being able to cram as many books onto this page as possible, I have omitted images of the unjacketed books, most of which aren't very interesting to look at anyway. All are viewable at our website, if you don't believe me.

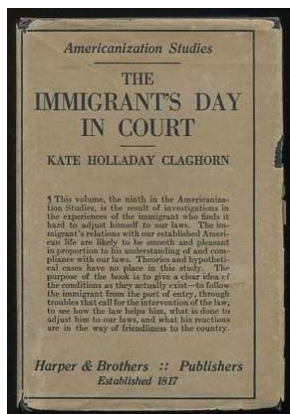
Abbott, Edith.

Immigration: Select Documents and Case Records. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1924.

From the Preface: "This is not a book of 'readings.' It is a source book, compiled to make available for students of immigration a collection of published documents and hitherto unpublished case records that will throw light on some of the historical, legal, and social aspects of the subject."

The author goes on to credit her sister, Grace Abbott, "who was from 1908 to 1921, except for an occasional leave of absence, in charge of the work of the Immigrants' Protective League and the Immigrants' Commission." (Both Abbott sisters rate pretty extensive Wikipedia entries. I suggest you read up.) The administrative nuts and bolts of the individual case records make for fascinating reading. (I'm not kidding.)

(Very Good+, no dust jacket) \$200



Claghorn, Kate Holladay. ***The Immigrant's Day in Court.*** NY/London: Harper & Brothers, 1923.

"This volume, the ninth in the Americanization Studies, is the result of investigations in the

experiences of the immigrant who finds it hard to adjust himself to our laws. ... The purpose of the book is to give a clear idea of the conditions as they actually exist – to follow the immigrant from the port of entry, through troubles that call for the intervention of the law, to see how the law helps him, what is done to adjust him to our laws, and what his reactions are in the way of friendliness to the country."

(Very Good+ in a VG dj) \$250

Commons, John R. ***Races and Immigrants in America.*** NY: The Macmillan Company, 1908 (c.1907).

2nd printing.

A racially-focused examination of the "immigration problem," in which the author wastes no time getting to his thesis: in the first paragraph of the first chapter, entitled "Race and Democracy," he quotes Jefferson's "all men are created equal," but cautions the reader that that high-falutin' Constitutional language was based on practical politics, not on science. What the Founders failed to acknowledge, in his opinion, was that this whole democracy thing breaks down when certain individuals, or classes, or races, exhibiting "any mental or moral defect," don't come up to snuff, and therefore should be excluded from the benefits thereof. And with that, he's off to the races (pun intended), devoting roughly the first half of the book to a history of various waves of immigration, then pivoting to a not-very-pretty picture of how these various groups – all of which he holds to be morally and intellectually lacking – have had a deleterious effect on every aspect of American life.

(Very Good, no dust jacket) \$40

Feldman, Herman. ***Racial Factors in American Industry.*** NY/London: Harper & Brothers, 1931.

This survey essentially amounts to a comprehensive catalog (and indictment) of the myriad ways in which various racial and ethnic groups were being discriminated against and exploited by American industries – in the words of the eminent

Raymond B. Fosdick (from the Foreword), "not a picture in which we Americans can take any pride." (Fosdick served as a trustee of numerous philanthropic organizations linked to the Rockefeller Foundation, apparently including a group with the somewhat sinister-sounding name of The Inquiry, which sponsored this volume and several others in a similar vein.)

(Very Good, no dust jacket) \$50

Hourwich, Isaac A.

Immigration and Labor: The Economic Aspects of European Immigration to the United States. NY/London: G.P. Putnam's Sons/The Knickerbocker Press, 1912.

A generally-approving response to the 1911 report of the U.S. Immigration Commission of 1907-1910 (also known as the Dillingham Commission), widely considered one of the most influential documents on the subject during this period. This three-year investigation reached the earth-shattering conclusion that U.S. immigration policy "should be based primarily upon economic or business considerations." The author agrees, and therefore approaches the issue "solely as an economic question," analyzing almost every conceivable subject relative to the impact of immigration in the American labor force. This copy bears the florid ownership signature of Simon Wolf (1836-1923), a Bavarian immigrant who became a prominent American businessman, lawyer, writer, lecturer and diplomat, active in many Jewish charitable and educational movements.

(Very Good, no dust jacket) \$100

Kansas, Sidney. ***U.S. Immigration: Exclusion and Deportation.*** NY: Holland Publishing Co., 1928. 2nd printing.

A reference and casebook on U.S. immigration legislation, in five parts. Part 1: "History of Immigration Legislation." Part 2: "Immigration Laws." Part 3: "Exclusion and Deportation," presenting brief descriptions of

numerous individual court rulings. Part 4: "Registration of Aliens." Part 5: "Outlines of World Migrations." The author, in his Preface, is pretty up-front with his opinion that only immigrants "who would make desirable additions to our population should be permitted to enter," those being of "a strong force of character and high civilization."

(Good, no dust jacket) \$50

McClure, Archibald.

Leadership of the New America: Racial and Religious. NY: George H. Doran Company, (c.1916).

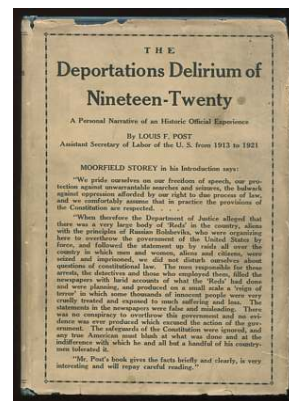
Later printing.

This survey of how immigrant communities with origins in southern and eastern Europe address issues of leadership "was done with the hope that it might throw some light on the perplexing problem of the training of Protestant religious leaders for work among our immigrant population" (a preoccupation more understandable when you consider that the survey was conducted under the auspices of the McCormick Theological Seminary). The book's Preface explains: "Investigations were carried on in many immigrant communities from the Atlantic to the Pacific, where mines, mills, homes, schools, churches, labor meetings, national and social gatherings were visited." The sixteen nationalities on whom data was gathered are divided into three groups: Slavic European; Non-Slavic European; and Asiatic. American secular and religious immigrant leaders were consulted and are given their own section.

(Very Good, no dust jacket) \$50

Post, Louis F. ***The Deportations Delirium of Nineteen-Twenty: A Personal Narrative of an Historic Official Experience.*** Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Company, (c.1923).

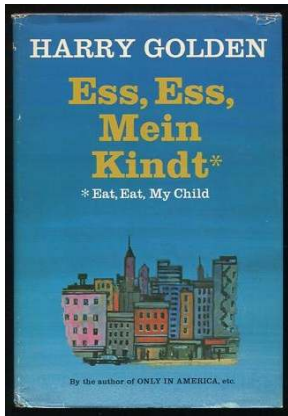
A thorough exposé of the extrajudicial deportation of thousands of alleged "Reds" or "Bolsheviks" that took place between November 1919 and January 1920 – "generally



known as 'the Red Crusade,'" it sez here, although the events are today usually referred to as the Palmer Raids, after their mastermind, U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. The author was the Assistant Secretary of Labor in the Wilson Administration, serving from 1913 to 1921, and due to some key absences and vacancies found himself, in March 1920, in charge of the Bureau of Immigration (the precursor of today's Immigration and Naturalization Service); as such, he stood up to Palmer and his henchman, one J. Edgar Hoover, then head of the Bureau of Investigation's General Intelligence Division (also known as the Radical Division) and thus the official charged with carrying out the raids. Having come to believe that the entire enterprise was a witch hunt, Post directed the review of deportation cases, and is generally "credited with preventing many deportations and freeing many innocent people." For his trouble, he was widely attacked in the press and by his political foes, but he survived an impeachment attempt and his verdict that the entire Red-scare enterprise of that time was "a stupendous and cruel fake" has been vindicated by history. One gets more than a little chill when reading the Introduction by Moorfield Storey (founding president of the NAACP), which is quite explicit about the hypocrisy of Americans' highly selective fealty to the Constitution and the rule of law, and especially harsh in its condemnation of the country's treatment of African Americans.

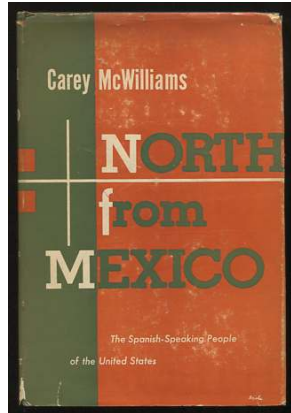
(Very Good in a Good dj) \$250

Non-Fiction (Individual Ethnicities)



Golden, Harry. *Ess, Ess, Mein Kindt (Eat, Eat, My Child)*. NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, (c.1966). 2nd impression. **SIGNED by the author.** A collection of the popular writer's "witty, nostalgic and shrewd observations on America, New York's Lower East Side, Jewish immigrants, life and literature – and the 'human condition.'" (Near Fine in a VG+ dj) \$35

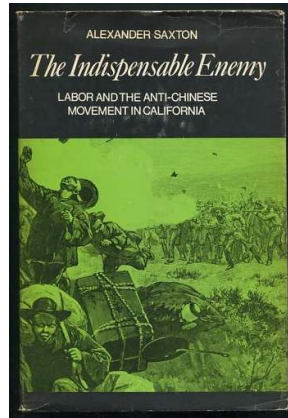
any source [and] to welcome and utilize what is essentially good and helpful, even if yet imperfectly developed, is in the judgment of the authors the true American policy." (Very Good+, no dust jacket) \$100



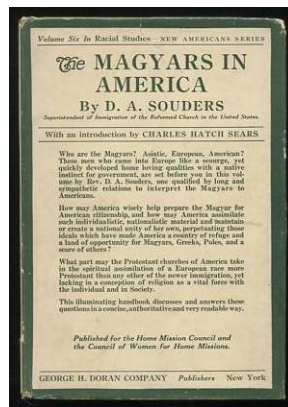
McWilliams, Carey. *North from Mexico: The Spanish-Speaking People of the United States*. Philadelphia/NY: J.B. Lippincott, 1949. An "industrial, agricultural and social" account of Hispanic-American people and culture in the American Southwest, by this attorney/journalist and crusading liberal (in the best American tradition), who turned out a spate of books from the late 1930s through the 1940s that sympathetically chronicled discrimination against numerous minority groups in the United States. (Very Good+ in a VG- dj) \$75

Saxton, Alexander. *The Indispensable Enemy: Labor and the Anti-Chinese Movement in California*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971. **INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the author and his wife.** This accounting of California's long and shameful discrimination against "Orientals" from the end of the Civil War through World War II is considered "one of the founding texts in Asian American studies" (Wikipedia). Contrary to earlier analyses, Saxton posited that existing patterns of racial discrimination against other groups in other parts of the country were transferred to California, where they manifested themselves in

hatred for, at first, the Chinese, and later the Japanese and other

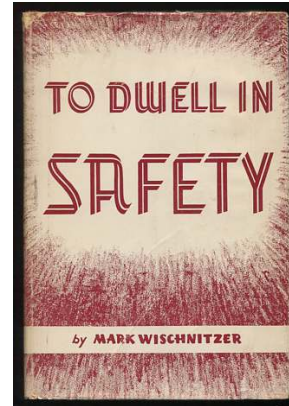


Asian peoples. Originally a fiction writer (he published three novels between 1943 and 1958), Saxton was also a full-time labor organizer and wrote for many left-wing publications during the 1940s. When his political leanings made it difficult for him to find publishers for his fiction, he returned to school, earned a Ph.D. in history, and ended up in a long academic career at UCLA, where he was one of the founders of the University's Asian American Studies Center. (Near Fine in a VG dj) \$100



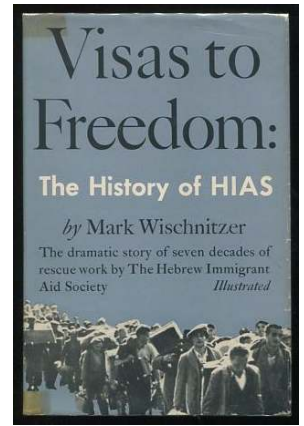
Souders, D.A. *The Magyars in America*. NY: George H. Doran Company, (c.1922). 2nd printing? One in a series of "sympathetic but critical" analyses of the impact of various newly-arriving ethnic/national groups on American society, in recognition of the fact that "America is being remade from different racial material" and that "the new immigration differs in blood and in 'mind,' perhaps in soul, from the older immigration." (The Magyars are from Hungary, in

case you're wondering.) Despite the publisher's ambitious plans for this "New Americans" series, announced on the front jacket flap, the series apparently never got beyond the first half-dozen announced volumes; none of the "other manuscripts in hand for publication at a later date" seem to have ever seen that date arrive. (Very Good+ in a VG dj) \$100

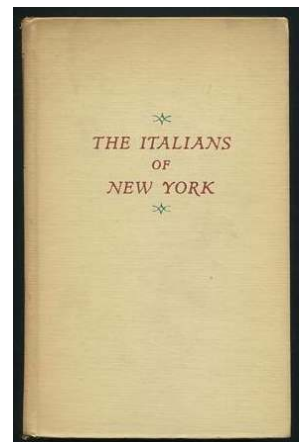


Wischnitzer, Mark. *To Dwell in Safety: The Story of Jewish Migration Since 1800*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1948. From the Preface: "Here is a comprehensive and scholarly but never dull survey of one of the most important social phenomena of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries -- the migration of millions of Jewish folk from central, eastern and southeastern Europe to the far corners of the world. ... With the punctilious care of the trained scholar and the creative imagination of a profound student of social trends, the author makes out of his factual material a stirring and engrossing story." (Very Good+ in a VG dj) \$100

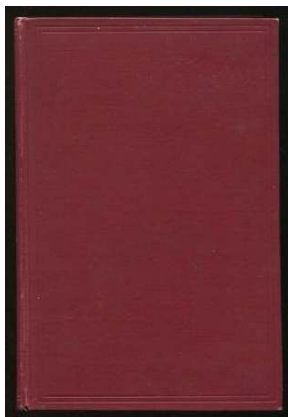
Wischnitzer, Mark. *Visas to Freedom: The History of HIAS*. Cleveland/NY: The World Publishing Company, (c.1956). "The dramatic story of seven decades of rescue work by The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society," the world's oldest refugee aid society. Formally incorporated in 1903, HIAS was actually a continuation of several predecessor organizations that had worked through the 1880s



and 1890s to assist Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and Eastern Europe. It still operates today with an expanded mandate, describing itself as "a multi-continent, multi-pronged humanitarian aid and advocacy organization ... dedicated to helping forcibly displaced people around the world in keeping with [its] Jewish ethical roots." (Near Fine in a VG dj) \$75

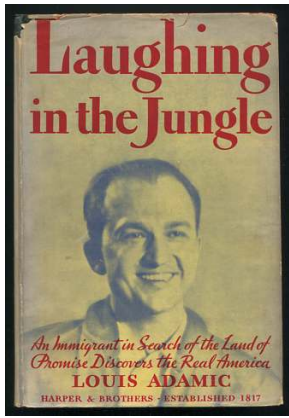


Workers of the Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration in the City of New York. *The Italians of New York: A Survey*. NY: Random House, (c.1938). This thorough historical and cultural survey of the Italian-American community of New York City was one of the numerous topical/historical volumes published under the auspices of the WPA's Federal Writers' Project, a New Deal enterprise best known for its guidebooks to individual states and cities. (Very Good, no dust jacket) \$60

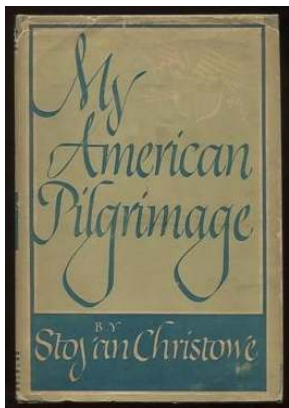


Lord, Eliot, John J.D. Trenor, and Samuel J. Barrows. *The Italian in America*. NY: B.F. Buck & Company, 1905. From the Preface: "The design of [this book] is to present clearly the contribution of Italy to American development and citizenship. ... The authors have in view simply the recital of facts for impartial consideration, for no concern of this country is more momentous and urgent than the national dealing with the problems of immigration, congestion, distribution and education for American standards of living and citizenship. To exclude what is essentially bad or unfuseful from

Thanks for the Memoirs

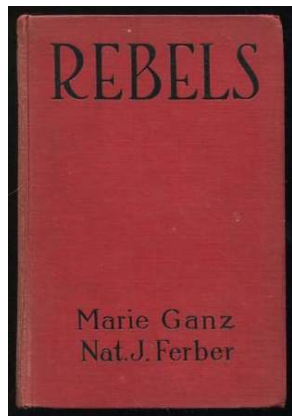


Adamic, Louis. *Laughing in the Jungle: The Autobiography of an Immigrant in America.* NY: Harper & Brothers, 1932. 2nd printing. Includes a typed and SIGNED note from the author, affixed to the front endpaper. An early work by this Slovenian-American author, who went on to write numerous books, many of which celebrated the ethnic diversity of his adopted country. Jacket-blurbed as “perhaps for the first time an unsweetened picture of what the immigrant in this country has to cope with,” the book reflects Adamic’s vision of America as “a great and fascinating jungle of chaotic economic, social, intellectual, and spiritual forces which drive people to various forms of success and destroy most of them in the process,” but in which he also finds “much that is essentially amusing or ridiculous.” (Sounds about right, even today.) **(Very Good in a Good dj)** \$275



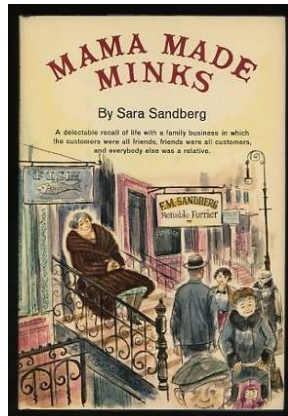
Christowe, Stoyan. *My American Pilgrimage.* Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1947. “An authentic and very human

account of how a Macedonian was transformed into an American. At seventeen [the author] came to this country, knowing practically nothing about it and entirely unable to speak English. During the first five years of his life in the United States he was reborn a thorough American, with his roots well in the soil of America. This book tells the story of those years.” Christowe, who came to the U.S. in 1912 at the age of thirteen, worked at various jobs before getting an education and establishing himself as a journalist and, later, a politician. **(Very Good+ in a VG dj)** \$300



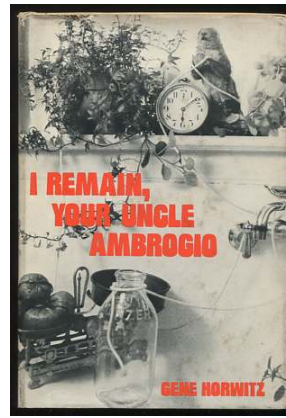
Ganz, Marie, and Nat J. Ferber. *Rebels: Into Anarchy – and Out Again.* NY: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1920. **INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the co-author, Nat J. Ferber.** The autobiography of anarchist labor organizer Marie Ganz, a native of Galicia who emigrated to the U.S. in 1896, at the age of five, to join her father, a Hester Street pushcart peddler. The early chapters provide a vivid picture of the family’s life of poverty as tenement dwellers in New York’s Lower East Side ghetto, and as the narrative proceeds we learn of her early working life (starting at the age of eight) in various menial jobs – eventually in a sweatshop – and her growing involvement with the anarchist movement as she becomes associated with Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman, and goes to work at the anarchist publication *Mother Earth*, founded by Goldman in 1906. Ganz, ironically known as “Sweet Marie” (reportedly due to her colorful and profane vocabulary), became an outspoken leader of the anarchist movement, breaking with it only

after becoming seized with patriotic fervor when the U.S. entered World War I, which brought her into opposition with the anarchists’ anti-war stance. Co-author Ferber, a journalist and novelist, was her husband, and I believe he’s the “pal” she associates with in the latter chapters of the book. Very scarce in the original edition. **(Good only, no dust jacket)** \$200

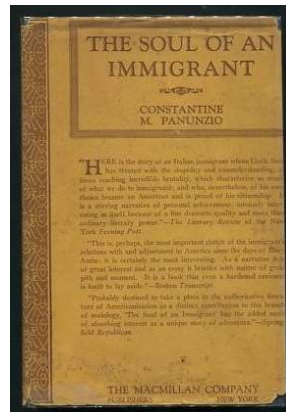


Sandberg, Sara. *Mama Made Minks.* Garden City NY: Doubleday & Co., 1964. Memoir of a family fur business in New York, run by the author’s Jewish immigrant parents – but mostly by her entrepreneurial Mother (yes, capital M, always), “a gem of wit, wisdom, and wily determination who could successfully remodel the mangiest old ermine, get the best of a pretty customer who had too much of a way with Papa, give advice to the lovelorn, and ferret out the secret of a competitor’s sudden prosperity.” Jewish-immigrant-in-New York narratives almost invariably take place on the Lower East Side – but F.M. Sandberg, Reliable Furriers was located well uptown, on upper Madison Avenue in Harlem. **(VG+ in a Near Fine dj)** \$65

Horwitz, Gene. *I Remain, Your Uncle Ambrogio.* Chicago: Henry Regnery Company, (c.1975). **INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the book’s subject.** “A series of wildly funny, deeply moving letters written by an eighty-one-year-old Italian immigrant whose amusing use of the English language (self-taught) is more than offset by an acuity of

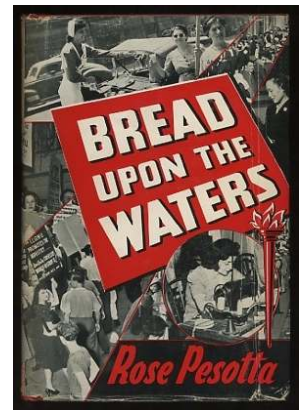


vision and thought. Uncle Ambrogio came to America in 1912 at the age of eighteen. His formal education ended at the third grade in Italy, and when he reached adulthood he began a self-improvement crusade that is still going on at age eighty-one.” The letters were written to his niece, Gina (Gene Horwitz), who collected them in this volume. **(Very Good+ in a VG dj)** \$50



Panunzio, Constantine M. *The Soul of an Immigrant.* NY: The Macmillan Company, 1924 (c.1921). 2nd printing. The story of an Italian immigrant “whom Uncle Sam has treated with the stupidity and misunderstanding, at times reaching incredible brutality, which characterize so much of what we do to immigrants; and who, nevertheless, of his own choice became an American and is proud of his citizenship. This is, perhaps, the most important sketch of the immigrant’s relations with and adjustment to America since the days of Mary Antin: it is certainly the most interesting.” (Quoted from two different review excerpts on the front jacket panel)

The author (1884-1964) begins this autobiography with an account of his childhood in Molfetta, in southern Italy. He went to sea at age 13, and came to the U.S. in 1902, settling in Boston. He describes his troubles finding work, learning English, and getting an education; eventually he became the administrator of a social service agency in Boston, which involved him deeply with the treatment and assimilation of immigrants, and in which capacity (as in this book) he was highly critical of the post-war hysteria about “radical aliens” which led to the infamous Palmer Raids of 1919/1920. **(Very Good in a Good dj)** \$175



Pesotta, Rose. *Bread Upon the Waters.* NY: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1944. Memoir by one of America’s outstanding labor organizers. Born in Ukraine, she came to the U.S. in 1913 to escape an arranged marriage, landed a job in a New York garment factory, and soon became a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; by the early 1930s she had assumed a position on the staff of the union, and was often assigned to organize workers outside the NYC area. In 1933, she was instrumental in organizing garment workers in Los Angeles (many of whom were Mexican immigrants), and her success led to her appointment as vice-president of the union, a post she held from 1934 to 1944, when she resigned from its executive board because she didn’t want to be the token woman on the board when women made up 85% of the organization’s membership. **(Very Good+ in a VG- dj)** \$40