VLADIMIR NABOKOV. From the collection of Lester W. Traub, Beverly Hills.

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The Traub collection, put together over a forty-year span, includes both Russian and English first editions, contributions to books and periodicals from Nabokov’s years in Europe and America, many other significant editions, including translations into a variety of languages. There are working manuscripts for two interviews, and substantial correspondence, the majority dealing with writing and publishing.

Interesting provenances and presentation copies include books from Nabokov’s own library, gifts to Véra, books inscribed to scholars, publishers and other friends, review copies from the libraries of Graham Greene, V.S. Pritchett, John Updike and others.

The catalogue is arranged as follows, allowing for a few inconsistencies:

Manuscripts, letters, documents, Nos. 1-9
Books by Nabokov, including translations of his works and some adaptations and movie memorabilia, Nos. 10-232.

Books with contributions, 233-242

Periodicals with contributions, 243-253

Miscellaneous, 254 - end

There remains unlisted more paperback editions, and volumes of criticism or scholarship, please inquire if interested.

Terms: Shipping and California sales tax if applicable are additional. Libraries may be billed to suit their budgetary requirements. Digital images are available on request.

MANUSCRIPTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Nabokov, Vladimir. Autograph letter signed, to Gleb Struve, Berlin, 17 July 1931. In Russian. Two pages (both sides of a single sheet), with original envelope. Very good condition. VN profusely thanks Struve for all that he has done and is doing for him, citing Béranger ("pourquoi tant me gater, pourquoi?") he writes of the self-love and self regard of "homo scribo" or “scribbleingus"; he refers to his epigram on Ivanov and encourages Struve to spread it around; he mentions the "Vivian Calmbrood" hoax; Berlin is in crisis and "the dusty surface of that old suitcase" is about to bear "the fresh impression of our hurried hand." July 1931 saw the Berlin bank crisis, when the banks closed and the currency collapsed. See Boyd, Vladimir Nabokov, The Russian Years, p. 370. [31191] $6,000
2.  (Nabokov, Vladimir). Corrected proof pages from *Modern Russian Poetry*. London: MacGibbon and Key, (1966). Two sheets containing Nabokov's two poems included in this anthology, in Russian and in English. He has marked each "OK", and initialed, in ink. On the verso two other poems have a couple of proof-reader's corrections. See Juliar B25.1.  

$2,500

3.  Nabokov, Vladimir. Autograph letter signed, to Andrew Field. Bex, June 30, 1968. Thanks to Field, then working on his bibliography of Nabokov, "for the really lovely book that my little sister brought me. It is excellent science and fine pictorial art".  

$1,750


$1,750


$1,750
6. Nabokov, Vladimir. "Lepidoptera Papers". Autograph manuscript, one page, in pencil, about 100 words. The introduction to the final section of *Strong Opinions* (1973). Very good condition. Nabokov describes his fifteen years of lepidoptera studies after moving to America in 1940, introducing three papers which had sufficient literary merit to include in the book. [31188] $2,750

FROM THE *PLAYBOY* FILES

7. Nabokov, Vladimir. The *Playboy* Files. Items from the *Playboy* files include letters to and from the Nabokovs, original corrected typescripts, photographs, interoffice correspondence, and other materials., concerning Nabokov’s published letters of protest and praise to *Playboy*, the interview with Alvin Toffler, published in the January 1964 issue and some of his other submissions to the magazine.

   i. 4/15/1961. Typed letter (photocopy) from Nabokov to the editor of *Playboy*. He objects to an account of a meeting with Maurice Girodias that Girodias published in his “Pornologist on Olympus” in the issue of April, 1961. VN requests that his letter be published in the May issue.

   ii. 4/20/1961. Typed letter (carbon) to VN from A.C. Spectorsky [ACS, *infra*] explaining that the letter could not be published until July and asking for details about Nabokov’s mention of his plan to publish his correspondence with Girodias in a forthcoming appendix to *Lolita*.

   iii. 4/24/1961. TLS from VN to ACS. He asks that *Playboy* make a special effort to print his letter about the insulting remarks of “despicable liar” Girodias in the June issue as “matters of
honor don’t wait”. He declines to discuss the publication of Lolita's tribulations.

iv. 12/11/1961. TLS from Véra Nabokov requesting that a copy of the April issue be sent to their friend Raoul Castelain, who was in fact a lawyer specializing in literary issues. With carbon reply.

v. 3/31/1963. TLS (2 pp.) from Alvin Toffler to ACS. Encloses the draft of his interview with Nabokov, discusses the interview process and editorial procedure. With a separate sheet of “Instructions, cavils and provisos on editing Nabokov interview”

vi. Toffler’s original typescript of the interview, 46 pages, heavily corrected in pencil and in ink.

vii. “First proofs”. Long galley sheets of the interview, corrected in manuscript by Nabokov, and with some editorial corrections and queries. With cover letter (carbon) to VN from editor Murray Fisher

viii. 10/6/1963. Photocopy letter from VN to Playboy editor Murray Fisher accepting all editorial suggestions and making a few corrections

ix. Cut galleys, to rearrange the order of answers, with many editorial corrections.

x. 1/22 /1965 and 2/3/196. Two letters from Putnam publisher Walter Minton about the serialization of “The Eye”, with carbon replies (ACS and Mildred Zimmerman)
xxi. 5/5/1968. Véra N to ACS. Arranging a meeting with Robie Macauley when he comes to Switzerland. Carbon letter from ACS making the request

xxii. 6/12/1968. Robie Macauley reports to ACS about his conversation with VN; VN’s favorable opinion of Playboy., work on Ada. Photocopy.

xxiii. 11/15/1968 Copy of a letter from VN to RM about Ada and his agreement to show work to The New Yorker.

xxiv. 12/12/1968. Macauley to ACS about the publication of Ada.

xxv. 4/14/1971. VN to ACS. Typed letter signed. He is asking New Yorker editor William Maxwell to forward some more of his work, including the “rotund and self-containing” Solus Rex.


xxvii. Four vintage prints of portraits of Nabokov, three by Gertrude Fehr, used in Playboy, 1970, 11 x 8.5 inches; 1975, and 1979; and one by Horst Tappe, (Nabokov in wet parka, 8 x 10 inch, used in Playboy, 1965) The archive: $17,500
In June 1969 the writer Philip Oakes interviewed Nabokov for *The Sunday Times*. These are the original materials relating to that interview:

i. 6/15/69. One page typed statement, signed. Nabokov outlines the terms for the interview.

ii. Original corrected typescript, signed, of Nabokov’s transcription of the submitted questions and his answers, 7 pages. The typescript includes questions that were dropped from the published article. Curiously Nabokov substituted “lepidopterist” for “entomologist” in correcting the typescript, but restored ”entomologist” for book publication (*Strong Opinions*, p. 135)

iii. 6/17/69. Carbon typescript of the interview as prepared for publication by Philip Oakes, with carbon letter to Nabokov. Oakes cautions that *The Sunday Times* lawyer may insist on excising the description of Ezra Pound as a “venerable fraud”.

iv. 6/18/69. Telegram from Nabokov to Oakes, “you may change fraud to mediocrity or nonentity” but he refuses to have the item excised. (*The Sunday Times* printed “mediocrity,” “fraud” was restored in *Strong Opinions*.) Published in *Selected Letters 1940-1977*, pp. 453-454.

v. Tear-sheets from *The Sunday Times* for 22 June 1969, containing the interview. [31190]

The archive: $10,000
LETTERS TO ESQUIRE


i. Nice, Feb. 11, 1961. Two pages. He may have "some curious material for [Esquire] very soon". He goes on to correct at some length of a number of "absurd misstatements" in Helen Lawrenson's article which had appeared in the August 1960 issue. Editorial markings in blue pencil, most of the letter was published in the June 1961 issue.

ii. Nice, March 23, 1961. One page. Enclosing (not present) "a narrative poem of 999 lines in four cantos supposed to be written by an American poet and scholar, one of the characters in my new novel....If you want this poem despite its being rather racy and tricky, and unpleasant, and bizarre, I must ask you to publish all four cantos." Needless to say, Pale Fire was not excerpted in Esquire.

Items i and ii were published in Selected Letters 1940-1977, pp. 324-325,329.

iii. Montreux, February 18, 1963. Sending stanzas of Eugene Onegin, "you are wrong in assuming [it] has been translated before into English....Ridiculous rhymed paraphrases (such as the Babette Deutsch concoction) do not count". An editorial hand notes "Fascinating". Esquire published the excerpt "The Art of the Duel," in July 1963. Some edge wear. [31186] $7,500
BOOKS BY NABOKOV

NABOKOV’S OWN COPY OF HIS FIRST NOVEL

10. Nabokov, Vladimir. *Mashen'ka. [Mary]*. Berlin: Slovo, 1926. First edition of Nabokov's first novel. Original green wrappers with cover and spine title labels. Cover edges and spine carefully reinforced with brown paper (probably by the author), preserving the fragile miniature spine label. Covers faded and creased, internally very good. At the top of the front endpaper Nabokov has written "the author's own copy", and at the bottom of the page he has signed "V. Nabokoff" and written his Berlin address, 22 Nestorstrassse, where the Nabokovs lived with Véra's cousin Anna Feigin from August 1932, until their final departure from Berlin in January 1937. Provenance: Andrew Yablonsky, UNESCO translator, and a close friend of Andrei Tarkovsky, with a letter from him detailing his 1972 identification and acquisition of the book. Juliar A8.1. [30581] $27,500


dust jacket, with publisher's review slip. Juliar A8.2. $50


EARLY PRESENTATION


16. Nabokov, Vladimir [V. Sirin, pseud.]. *Korol' Dama Valet* [King Queen Knave]. Berlin: Slovo, 1928. First edition. Original gray printed wrappers, a little wear to edges, usual browning of text paper. Old Russian lending library stamps removed from front cover and several pages. Title page has the pencil inscription "Ex libris Alexis Struve". Nabokov was close to the Struve family, especially Alexis's brother Gleb
who promoted his work in the English-speaking world.
Juliar A9.1 [30572] $3,500


INSCRIBED


VÉRA’S COPY - WITH A BUTTERFLY


Juliar A12.1. [30460] $1,500

Juliar A12.1. [30890] $3,000


jacket. Fine, in lightly worn jacket with faint toning to the spine. cf. Juliar A12.2, variant "a". [31019] $75


the author as being "insufficiently revised by me". Black
cloth, lacking the scarce dust jacket. A very good copy, lightly
cocked, spine lettering mostly perished, faint foxing and
minor soil to a few scattered margins. Juliar D14.4. [31002]
$3,750

43. (Nabokov) Nabokoff, Vladimir. *Laughter in the Dark*.
Indianapolis and New York: Bobbs-Merrill, (1938). First U.S.
edition. The first book of Nabokov's to appear in the U.S.,
and the first publication of his own translation. Original
green cloth (first issue binding), spine slightly faded a very
good copy, gently cocked, with a small stain to the fore-edge.
The dust jacket has a closed tear to the front panel and slight
chipping, otherwise very good. Juliar A14.2, variant "a".
[30935] $750

44. (Nabokov) Nabokoff, Vladimir. *Laughter in the Dark*.
first book of Nabokov's to appear in the U.S., and the first
publication of his own translation. Original orange cloth
[31127] $200

wrappers. Modest wear to extremities, "w" written in black
marker on first page, pages toned as usual, otherwise a
nearly fine copy. Juliar A14.3. [31008] $25

cloth. Minor splaying to boards, else fine, in a nearly fine
dust jacket, faded on the spine and with a small tape repair to the reverse of the spine panel. Juliar A14.6. [31128] $125


54. Nabokov, Vladimir. *La Méprise*. Traduit de l'anglais par Marcel Stora. Paris: Gallimard, 1939. First French language edition of *Otchaianie* [*Despair*], translated from Nabokov's first English translation by Marcel Stora. Original printed wrappers, fine, unopened. There were no special paper copies. This was the first of Nabokov's books to be translated into French from English instead of from Russian. Juliar D15.1. [31219] $275


56. Nabokov, Vladimir. Announcement card for *Invitation to a Beheading*. New York: Putnam, 1959. Black-bordered card reading "Vladimir Nabokov cordially invites you to attend a beheading. October 23, 1959," in matching envelope. With cover letter from Elinor Green at Putnam to a bookseller, sending more of the cards, but they no longer have any of the envelopes. *Invitation to a Beheading* was the first of Nabokov's novels to be published in English after the success of *Lolita*. October 23 was its announced publication date, although Juliar says it was on September 21. [31192] sold

Review copy, with slip loosely laid in. A fine copy in fine dust jacket, with faintest use. The slip is dated October 23, although Juliar notes publication date as September 21.

Juliar A16.2 [30932] $375


FINE COPY


71. Nabokov, Vladimir. *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight*. Norfolk, Connecticut: New Directions, 1941. First edition. Red burlap. Missing the spine label (there is no evidence one was ever present), small variant cover label. Slight wear at ends of spine, slight fading, dust jacket lacks the front flap, has minor edge wear. The author's name is spelled "Nabokov" on the jacket. A review copy, stamped with the
72. Nabokov, Vladimir. *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight*. Norfolk, Connecticut: New Directions, 1941. First edition. Red burlap, spine and cover labels. A fine copy with no wear, bright spine label (small variant); the jacket is missing large chips from the spine. A review copy, stamped with the publication date on the front endpaper, and a contemporary publicity photo of Nabokov is laid in. Ownership signature of Milton Merlin, blacklisted Hollywood writer and producer. Juliar E21  [31179] $1,500


79. Nabokov, Vladimir. *Three Russian Poets.* Selections from Pushkin, Lermontov and Tyutchev. New York: New Directions, 1944. First edition. Plain wrappers. Juliar A23.1 variant b is the wrappers issue, but this copy has no jacket. Review slip dated Feb. 1, 1945, publication was Feb. 14. With a postcard from a Wellesley, Mass. resident sending these translations "by a young man of these parts. Have heard him lecture on these poets & they seemed authentic. He teaches Russian here & has had a Guggenheim fellowship". [31174] $150


Museum's Bulletin for February 1949 is devoted to Nabokov's article. Includes drawings by the author.


Brothers" on the front endpaper and, in abbreviated language, the top edge. Blue boards backed in black cloth. Fine, in two dust jackets, the outer one very good, tanned to the spine and gently worn to extremities, the inner one fine and bright with just a hint of toning to the flaps. Juliar A26.1. [31135] $750


INSCRIBED WITH A BUTTERFLY

copy, inscribed with a colorful pencil drawing of a butterfly, to his first biographer, Andrew Field. Juliar A27.1 [31246] $7,500


RARE PIRACY

copies of this printing. A28.1.3  [31248] $500


LOLITA SIGNED IN THE MONTH OF PUBLICATION


**IMPORTANT ASSOCIATION**


creased. Very good. Image of Sue Lyon in bikini, hat, and sunglasses, sprawled on the lawn. [31249] $75


**LOLITA IN MANY LANGUAGES**


126. Nabokov, Vladimir. *Lolita*. Stockholm: Wahlstrom & Widstrand, 1957. First Swedish edition. "Withdrawn from sale on Nabokov's request because the translation was defective. Another edition was also withdrawn, for the same reason, and all copies supposedly burned" (Juliar). Pictorial wrappers creased to spine and lightly edge worn, otherwise fine. Juliar D28.3. [31159] $125


NABOKOV’S COPY


a nearly fine dust jacket with modest wear. The type was
reset for this edition. See Juliar D28.20.  [31155]  $125

NABOKOV’S COPY

Nabokov's own copy, with the posthumous bookplate. Cloth,

NABOKOV’S COPY

Nabokov's copy, with his posthumous bookplate on the front
pastedown. Olive cloth, fine, in a nearly fine dust jacket with
slight wear to the extremities. Juliar D28.28.  [31154]
$250

language edition. Pale grey cloth. Fine, in a gently shelf worn
dust jacket.  [31025]$50

(1966). First edition. Pink cloth, cover label drawing by
Léonor Fini. Spine faded, else fine, 22 x 15 cm; 347 pp. Juliar
D28.7  [31217]  $50

RARE TIRAGE DE TÊTE

printed wrappers, glassine cover, fine, unopened. Copy "B" of
six lettered, hors-commerce copies, from a *tirage de tête* that consists of 80 copies on Lafuma-Navarre paper. The translation was by the brother of Lolitas's rogue publisher Maurice Girodias. Juliar D28.7. [31183] $2,500


142. Nabokov, Vladimir. *Lolita*. [Taiwan]: [1959]. Piracy edition of Putnam's 8th printing, presumed to be a Taiwan imprint, with date and Taiwan location penned to front endpaper. Blue cloth stamped in silver. A very good copy, with lean to spine and corner of front endpaper clipped, in good only tanned and brittle dust jacket with several chips to edges, detached front flap. cf. Juliar J28.1. [31050] $35

Tolstoy Foundation Library on the cover and endpaper, but a very good copy. Juliar A29.1. [31241] $400


A SIGNED PNIN


ONE OF 46


INSCRIBED TO IRA GERSHWIN


purple cloth, with inset gold cloth disks for gilt titling. Fine as issued, in gold cloth slipcase. The second volume provides a second copy of the poem "Pale Fire" for reference, which is printed in a format resembling that of the manuscript of the poet John Shade as described in the novel (eighty ruled index cards). As far as we are aware this is the only deluxe fine press treatment of any Nabokov novel. [28728] $2,000


RARE PROOF COPY


WARM PRESENTATION


ANOTHER RARE PROOF


moderately worn, a very good copy. Juliar H41 and A44.1/6. [30987] $25


GRAHAME GREENE’S COPY


JOHN UPDIKE’S ANNOTATED REVIEW COPY


"Foreward (sic) to come" was not written, and a foreword by Guy Davenport appeared in the published edition. Juliar E54.1. [31206] $125


ONE OF FORTY COPIES

published edition. Boards, fine. One of 40 hardbound copies, from an edition of 110. An earlier printing the same year omitted Dmitri Nabokov's Note, as he was late in delivering it. (See also [31222]$450


V.S. PRITCHETT'S ANNOTATED REVIEW COPY


ONE OF FIFTEEN COPIES


CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS


234. (Nabokov, Vladimir). *Pamiati Amalii Osipovny Fondaminskoi* [In Memory of Amalia Osipovny Fondaminskaia]. Paris: Privately printed, 1937. First edition. Original wrappers, slight edge wear, but in very good condition. Illustrated with three tipped-in photographs. Nabokov contributed an essay to this memorial volume for the wife of Ilya Fondaminsky, exile writer, editor, and publisher. In 1932, when Nabokov first arrived in Paris, Amalia "mothered him. She provided him with a special dressing table with his own talc and eau-de-cologne....She typed up the thirty-odd pages of Despair...that he planned to read." (Boyd), *Vladimir Nabokov: The Russian Years*, p. 395. "A great rarity" with only 200 copies printed, according to the online catalogue of "Russia Beyond Russia", the André Savine Digital Library at the University of North Carolina.


*L'Affaire Lolita*. (B20) See item 104.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERIODICALS

243. Sovremennye Zapiski [Contemporary Annals]

A nearly-complete set (29 of 32) of the issues containing Nabokov's contributions. Sovremennye Zapiski "the emigration's most distinguished literary journal" (Boyd), was published from 1920-1940 by exiled members of the Russian Socialist-Revolutionary Party, including Ilya Fondaminsky. Much of Nabokov's early fiction was serialized in its pages before book publication. $7,500

Poka v tumane strannykh dnei ["While in the mist of dubious days"] [and] "Davno-l'--po naberezhnoi snezhnoi" ["How long since o'er the snowy quay"] [in] Sovremennye Zapiski, No. VII. 1921. These two poems mark Nabokov's first appearance in the periodical. Juliar C45-46

Rossiia [Russia] [in] Sovremennye Zapiski, No. XI. 1922. Juliar C77.

Uzhas [Terror] [in] Sovremennye Zapiski, No. XXX. 1927. Juliar C251

Pil'gram [Pilgram] [in] Sovremennye Zapiski, No. XLIII. 1930. Juliar C 312

Sogliadatai [The Eye] [Chap. 1] [in] Sovremennye Zapiski, No. XLIV. 1930. Juliar 320.

Podvig [Glory] [in] Sovremennye Zapiski, Nos. XLV - XLVII. 1931. Incomplete first appearance of the novel, serialized C341-C343, lacking issue XLVIII.


Vesna v Fial'te [Spring in Fialta] [in] Sovremennye Zapiski, No. LXI. 1936 Juliar C401.

Dar [The Gift] [in] Sovremennye Zapiski, Nos. LXIV - LXVII. 1938. Incomplete first appearance of the novel, serialized over five issues. This set is missing Chapter 1, published in Sovremennye Zapiski, No. LXIII. Chapter 4 was omitted by the publisher for, according to Nabokov, "the same reasons that the biography it contains was rejected by Vasiliev in Chapter Three" (Juliar A17); the novel wasn't published in its entirety until 1952. Original wrappers, lightly toned, leaves tanned and, in two issues, unopened, nearly fine. Juliar (C405), C407, C409, C415 and C417.


ENTOMOLOGICAL PAPERS

244. (Nabokov, Vladimir). A complete set of his four contributions to *The Entomologist*. London: 1920, 1931, 1948. Original wrappers, slight edge wear, but very good copies, preserved in a folding case. The 1920 article is among VN's first publications in English; the 1948 article describes a new species, named after himself. Juliar AA1, AA2, AA13. [31161]

   $1,250

245. Nabokov, Vladimir. "Home" [in] *The Trinity Magazine*, Vol 5, no. 2, Cambridge: 1920. First edition. Cloth with leather labels, very good. Bound with issues for 1921 which don't contain a Nabokov contribution. However he is listed there among the students as "a welcome visitor who has made the College his home and our language his own". One of two poems published by Nabokov in November 1920, which, aside from a scientific work, are his first appearances in English. Juliar C12. [31215] $750


CRITICISM, BIOGRAPHY, AND MISCELLANY

INSCRIBED

superb....[He] smiled indulgently at the blunders" Boyd.

PROOF WITH SOME UNPUBLISHED TEXT


copy, with publisher's slip laid in. Fine, in dust jacket. [31014] $25


INSCRIBED TO NABOKOV

261. [Nabokov, Vladimir] Tate, Allen. Poems 1922-1947. New York: Scribner's, 1948. First edition. Inscribed "to Vladimir Nabokov with all regards / Allen Tate / January 22, 1948". Tate had been an editor at Holt, and his enthusiasm for it was influential in their publication of Bend Sinister. Grey cloth, fine copy in dust jacket. [31122] $750


            $30


