



## YOUNG WINSTON'S WARS

[1972]

(Cohen A275) (Woods A143)

Sometimes thought to be an extracted work like *Frontiers and Wars*, this book presents entirely new material and marks Churchill's posthumous return to the ranks of current authors. Undoubtedly its publication was influenced by the appearance of the film "Young Winston," starring Simon Ward. (*The Times Literary Supplement* called it the "Book of the Film.") Compiled by bibliographer Frederick Woods, *Young Winston's Wars* comprises Churchill's original despatches as a war correspondent covering the same three military campaigns as his first four war books: the Northwest Frontier of India, the Sudan and South Africa.

Naming Churchill (along with Stevens and Russell) "among the most brilliant, involved and fluent" war correspondents, Woods' Introduction is critical but not un-admiring: "Churchill's war despatches were very much of their time. He wrote passionately of the Queen, the Empire and the Flag; yet he rarely wrote jingoistically. His writing was informed with humanity and charity (except when he was attacking hypocrisy or what he considered to be official ineptitude, and he displayed that respect—even admiration—for a good enemy that characterised the days when chivalry and cavalry were synonymous....After the battle of Omdurman he visited the field and saw the thousands of Dervish dead. While relishing the victory over what he saw as feudal tyranny, he nevertheless paid tribute to the twisted corpses....Emotions about Churchill can still run high...but on an objective basis, it must be conceded that his war despatches during this limited period rank among his greatest writings. When it is considered that he was still in his early twenties when he wrote them, the achievement should be seen in true perspective."

*-Richard M. Langworth*

### **From the Reviews:**

"It is well to be reminded that the future winner of a Nobel Prize for literature began by writing for the papers. He laid thereby the foundations of his literary style, his political career and his fortune. Within six months of the date of the last despatch printed here he was MP for Oldham and was able to write to his mother, on the first day of the new century, 'I am very proud of the fact that there is not one person in a million who at my age could have earned £10,000 without any capital in less than two years.'

"In return his editors received a series of remarkable documents, quite out of the ordinary run of correspondence, which can be read with pleasure today even by those who care little for their subjects. The Churchillian style was already well developed. He cared about good writing and would never give less than his best even when he was writing 'on the ground in a tent temperature of 115 degrees'....Perhaps the most memorable passages in this collection are those in which he celebrates the courage and deplors the losses of the Sudanese at Omdurman and applauds the skill and resolution of the Afrikaners. Already in his youth he was preaching the virtues of resolution in war and magnanimity in victory."

*-The Times Literary Supplement, 15 September 1972*

### **Comments and Appraisal**

Leo Cooper's military books are avidly sought by collectors of militaria as well as Churchill, and demand has begun rapidly to raise the price of first editions. The alternative is the second impression, which of course costs less.

## **-EDITIONS-**

**[YOUNG WINSTON'S WARS]**  
**First Edition: Cohen A275.1 / ICS A143a**

**Publisher: Leo Cooper Ltd., London 1972**

Dark blue cloth blocked gilt on spine with title, publisher's logo and name. 8vo, 384 pages numbered (i)-(xxx) and (1)-350 (+4) plus two sheets of illustrations printed on coated paper between pages 130-31 and 160-61. Seven maps, integral with the pages. Dust jackets are printed black, red and yellow with multicolour illustration of the Omdurman charge from "Young Winston" starring Simon Ward. Published 20 July 1972 at £3.50 (\$9.80). Two impressions, the first of 5,000 copies.

**Identifying First Editions:** no mention of a reprint on the verso of the title page; the reprint states, "Reprinted September 1972."

**[YOUNG WINSTON'S WARS]**  
**American Issue: Cohen A275.2 / ICS A143b**

**Publisher: The Viking Press, Inc., New York 1972**

Offprinted (or printed from English plates) in the United States, this volume's pagination matches that of the English Edition, but it is slightly wider thanks to more generous page margins. Bound in olive cloth blocked gilt and black on spine. Dust jackets are printed blue, black and red with a black and white photograph of Churchill in the South Africa Light Horse uniform on the front face. One impression, published at \$8.95.

**Appraisal:** This volume is common in America and tends to cost less than the Cooper Edition.

**[YOUNG WINSTON'S WARS]**  
**First Paperback Edition: Cohen A275.3 / ICS A143c**

**Publisher: Sphere Books Ltd., London 1972**

A paperback of 440 pages plus four pages of illustrations on coated paper, first published at 50p (\$1.40) to coincide with the release of the film "Young Winston." *Identifying first editions:* the first edition is printed in shades of brown with scenes from "Young Winston" superimposed on a photograph of Churchill

c.1900; the spine is predominately tan and the UK price (back wrapper) is 50p. A later, slightly larger issue has a multicolour film still (Young Winston firing at the armoured train ambush) with the title printed red, the spine mainly red, and the UK price (back wrapper) of 60p. Despite its obviously later appearance, this second issue is labeled "First Sphere Edition" on the title page verso, like its predecessor.

**Readers Union Issue: Cohen A275.4 / ICS A143d**

**Publisher: Readers Union Ltd, Newton Abbot, Devon 1975**

A book club issue offprinted from the Cooper Edition; the only change aside from the title page and verso is the location of the photo pages: all between pages 66-67. Bound in black paper-covered boards blocked silver on spine (running down). A curious error: the byline at the spine top reads "Kenneth Warren." The dust jacket is printed brown and turquoise on white stock with the Light Horse photo of Churchill on the front face. This is a good edition for the reader who is not a collector.

**[YOUNG WINSTON'S WARS]  
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL WAR CORRESPONDENT 1895-1900  
New Revised Edition: ICS A143e**

**Publisher: Brassey's (UK) Ltd., London 1992**

Bound in black cloth blocked gilt on spine ("Woods," title and "Brassey's," reading down. 8vo, 388 pages numbered (i)-xxxii and (1)-355 (+1). Dust jacket printed turquoise and sepia on white stock; the Light Horse photograph takes up most of the front face. Published at £17.95, simultaneously published in the United States at \$29.95. One impression.

Entirely reset, this important new edition adds Churchill's five despatches from Cuba in 1895, which Woods omitted from the First Edition because Randolph Churchill had recently included them in the proximate Companion Volume to the Official Biography. There is also a new Foreword by our author's grandson, Winston S. Churchill. There are two new maps but illustrations are omitted.

## **Appraisal**

Fine copies are certainly worth seeking out. This edition is much in demand for its superior appearance and the additional despatches on Cuba. Although the latter are available in the Companion Volumes to the Official Biography, and copies of the earlier editions are plentiful, this is the only really complete collection of our author's war despatches.

## TERMINOLOGY

This guide follows John Carter's *ABC for Book Collectors* commonly used terms:

**Edition:** "All copies of a book printed at any time or times from one setting-up of type without substantial change, including copies printed from stereotype, electrotype [we must now add 'computer scanning'] or similar plates made from that setting of type."

**Impression:** "The whole number of copies of that edition printed at *one* time, i.e., without the type or plates being removed from the press." A particular conundrum was posed by the discovery that the stated third impression of the Colonial *Malakand Field Force* (pressed November 1898) carried the same extensive textual corrections of the Silver Library Edition (pressed at the same time—indeed both these books used the same sheets). How then to classify the third Colonial? It is clearly not a new impression. Our solution was to make it part of a new entry, not cited by Woods, the "Second Edition," along with the Silver Library Edition.

**State:** "When alterations, corrections, additions or excisions are effected in a book during the process of manufacture, so that copies exhibiting variations go on sale on publication day indiscriminately, these variant copies are conveniently classified as belonging to different states of the edition." Example: the two states of the first English *My Early Life*.

**Issue:** "An exception [to the above] is the regular use of issue for variant title pages, usually in respect of the publisher's imprint...[also] when similar variations can be clearly shown to have originated in some action taken after the book was published, two [or more] *issues* are distinguished." Example: the two issues of *The People's Rights*, one with an index and appendix, the other with two appendices and no index.

We occasionally sidestep Carter's strict definitions for clarity. With *Savrola*, for example, Woods states that the first English "edition" was produced from a set of electroplates made up in Boston, a duplicate set to the First American Edition. The English "edition" might therefore be called an "issue," but we do not do so because no one else does, including Woods, and because this book is quite distinct in appearance.

**Offprints:** Carter defines this as "a separate printing of a section of a larger publication," which is not exactly how modern publishers use it. To us an offprint is a reprint, sometimes reduced but sometimes same-size, of *all* the pages of an earlier printing (for example the five Canadian offprints of American war speech volumes from *The Unrelenting Struggle through Victory*. In earlier years offprinting was accomplished by using plates from the original (like the Canadian issue of *My African Journey*) or by reproducing the type on negatives (like the Australian issue of *Secret Session Speeches*) In the latter case, the offprint usually exhibits heavy looking type, not as finely printed as the original. Offprints are not usually considered separate editions, but a *contretemps* arises with modern reprints of long out-of-print works made by photo-reproduction.

**Proof copies:** From *The World Crisis* on, proof copies bound in paper wrappers are occasionally encountered. This is a task best left to the bibliographer, except to say that in general they tend to lack illustrations, maps and plans that appear in the published volumes. Although not widely collected, proofs do usually command high prices when they are offered for sale.

**Dust Jackets = Dust Wrappers:** We generally use the term "dust jacket" to refer to what English bibliophiles usually call a "dust wrapper." The two terms are interchangeable, though words that describe the *parts* of the dust jacket, aside from "spine," are common to both countries. These are as follows: *Flap:* The parts of the jacket that fold in around the edge of the boards, front and rear. *Face:* The front or back panel of the jacket that you see with the book lying flat in front of you.

## SIZE

Books vary—especially old books—and one finds variations between identical editions. Except where distinct size differences help identify various editions or impressions of the same title, one from another, this guide describes books by the traditional cataloguer's terms:

**Folio** (Fo.): Very large format, now commonly known as "coffee table" size; among Churchill folio works is the Time-Life two-volume *Second World War*, measuring 14 x 12 inches (365 x 305mm) which deserves this description.

**Quarto** (4to): Normally lying between folio and octavo in size, though varying considerably in this respect. A telephone directory is quarto; but so is *The Island Race*, A138(c), which measures 12 1/4 x 9 3/4 inches (310 x 248mm), although Woods calls it "octavo" and says it measures 12 x 9 1/2! Other quarto volumes are the Danish and Norwegian translations of *The Great War*, which measure 8 1/2 x 11 1/2."

**Octavo** (8vo): The commonest size of book since the early 17th century. A large (demy) octavo is about the size of *Frontiers and Wars*, A142/1, which measures 9 1/2 x 6 3/8 inches (232 x 162mm). A small (crown) octavo is about the size of the English *Young Winston's Wars*, A143(a), which measures 8 3/4 x 5 5/8 inches (222 x 143mm), although Woods calls it "16mo" and says it measures 8 1/2 x 5 1/2! (You see the problem...)

**Duodecimo** (12mo, commonly called "twelvemo"): A bit smaller than 8vo but taller than 16mo: the size of a conventional paperback, say 6 7/8 x 4 1/4 inches (175 x 107mm).

**Sextodecimo** (16mo, usually pronounced "sixteenmo"): The smallest size of book covered herein, shorter but perhaps wider than a paperback, for example the 1915 edition of *Savrola*, which measures 6 5/8 x 4 1/2 inches (168 x 114mm).

My only other reference to size will be when an obvious difference can be ascertained between related editions or issues: I thought it useful to mention, for example, that the first edition *Malakand* bulks about 1 1/2 inches, while the first Colonial issue bulks only about 1 1/4 inches; or that there's about a half inch difference between the first impression Macmillan *Aftermath* and the later impressions. Even here, the key word is "about," since old books swell or shrink depending on storage conditions, and many were not uniform to begin with.

## FOREIGN TRANSLATIONS

Collectors of editions in foreign languages are enjoying a little-known but rewarding branch of Churchill bibliophilia, not the least for the sometimes magnificent bindings of these works (leading examples: the Monaco edition of *Savrola*, Scandinavian editions of *The Great War* and the Belgian French edition of *The Second World War*). Foreign translations also often differ importantly from the English editions, depending on what Churchill wished to emphasize or de-emphasize. For example, Sir Martin Gilbert's official biography records that the Dutch, through Churchill's foreign language impresario Emery Reves, were offended by no mention in *The Grand Alliance* of the activities of Dutch submarines in the Allied cause. Churchill replied that he would make no alteration in his English text but had no objection to an amplifying footnote on this subject in the Dutch edition, which was duly entered. (*Winston S. Churchill*, Vol. VIII, "Never Despair," London: Heinemann 1988 page 549). While we have not gone into great descriptive detail, we have indicated the broad reach of Churchill's foreign translations.

### **MAJOR WORKS CITED**

Three works are commonly referred to in this guide:

**Woods** is shorthand for *A Bibliography of the Works of Sir Winston Churchill, KG, OM, CH* by the late Frederick Woods, the Second Revised Edition, second issue (Godalming, Surrey: St. Paul's Bibliographies 1975). The late Mr. Woods recognized that his work badly needed updating, and was beginning work on the update before his untimely death in 1994.

Frederick Woods, the pioneer bibliographer of Sir Winston, published his first edition in 1963, astonishing not only bibliophiles but also the Churchill family with the number of items he uncovered. Dissatisfaction with the completeness and accuracy of his work was inevitable as time passed, and Fred, to whom many of us passed our corrections and suggestions, characteristically recognized this. He was hoping to rectify the situation before his death. He can truly be said to have inspired everyone who has researched or seriously collected the works of Churchill.

**Cohen** is the new Ronald Cohen Bibliography, published by Continuum, a product of more than twenty-five years' labour by the author, aided and abetted by scores of bibliophiles and, through the pages of *Finest Hour*, journal of The Churchill Centre.

Both Frederick Woods, before he died, and Ronald Cohen kindly gave permission to quote their bibliographic numbers here as a cross reference.

**ICS** refers to a publication of the International Churchill Societies, *Churchill Bibliographic Data, Part 1* ("Works by Churchill"). Pending release of the update, which he did not succeed in publishing, Mr. Woods also permitted the International Churchill Society to publish an "Amplified list" based on his numbers, but with more detailed sub-designations to pinpoint the various editions and issues. For example, *The World Crisis* has assigned three "Woods" numbers: A31(a) through A31(c). The ICS "Amplified Woods list" runs from A31a through A31k (in order to distinguish certain deservingly distinct editions and issues. Except for deleting the parentheses, in no case did ICS alter any basic Woods numbers. For example, even *Blenheim*, which undeservedly holds Woods number A40(c)—it is only an excerpt, and probably should not be among the "A" titles at all—is retained by ICS. Thus, "ICS" numbers are merely an extension of Woods numbers.

**END**