



## FRONTIERS AND WARS

[1962]

(Cohen A267) (ICS A142/1)

Although this work appeared in Churchill's lifetime he had nothing to do with its preparation, nor does it contain new material. It is an extraction of his first four war books, the *Malakand*, *River War*, *Ladysmith* and *Hamilton*, compiled in a single volume by Eyre and Spottiswoode, publishers of Churchill's own abridged *River War* since 1933. In the jacket blurb for this work, E&S are careful to note that *The River War* is still available (from them), though the other three works have "been out of print since before the first World War."

The abridging is ruthless but effective. What remains are the backgrounds to the wars and the chief features of them, culled and packaged to fit a volume of fewer than 600 pages. As such it constitutes a new text, which most Churchill

collectors are anxious to own. As a bonus, the book is generously illustrated with the main characters in the stories, along with contemporary drawings and photographs of famous places and things: the Malakand Field Force on the march, the Charge of the 21st Lancers at Omdurman, Boer fighters in the field, an armoured train "similar to the one on which Churchill was captured." The books are tall and elegantly produced, with fine large type and ample margins. *Frontiers and Wars* is the ideal introduction to Churchill the Victorian war historian, and I often recommend it to readers who have never before dipped into this portion of the canon. Most of them soon end up reading the original texts—which is all to the good.

*-Richard M. Langworth*

## **-EDITIONS-**

**[FRONTIERS AND WARS]**  
**First Edition: Cohen A267.1 / ICS A142/1a**

**Publisher: Eyre & Spottiswoode, London 1962**

Bluish-grey cloth blocked gilt on spine with author's name, title (on maroon panel) and "E&S" at the foot. 8vo, 568 pages numbered (1)-(568) plus frontispiece and 15 pages of illustrations on coated stock, interspersed throughout. Dust jackets are printed black, red and olive on coated white paper and illustrated with a silhouetted black and white photo of our author (from frontispiece) on the front face and an illustration of the charge at Omdurman on the back face, wrapping around the spine. Published at 42s (\$5.88); two impressions. *Identifying first editions:* no mention of a second impression on verso of title page.

**Appraisal:** Although plenty of copies are around, fine ones are scarce; and fine dust jackets scarcer. The latter are prone to chipping and tearing.

**[FRONTIERS AND WARS]**  
**American Issue: Cohen A267.2 / ICS A142/1b**

**Publisher: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., New York 1962**

Bound in black cloth blocked gold and red on spine with sheets supplied by the English printers. Pagination identical to the First Edition. Dust jacket printed red and black on white paper and illustrated only with a subaltern's helmet on front face and spine; one impression, no variants. Published at \$8.75.

**Appraisal:** Not the true first, this issue tends to cost less than the English Edition, although it is much scarcer.

**[FRONTIERS AND WARS]**  
**First Paperback Edition: Cohen A267.3, ICS A142/1c**

**Publisher: Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, Mdsix. 1972**

A thick, 608-page paperback with 16 pages of illustrations on coated paper, this reset work was published to coincide with the release of the Columbia Pictures film "Young Winston," and contains the Omdurman scene from that film on its wrappers. Published at 60p (\$1.68).

**[FRONTIERS AND WARS]**  
**Second American Issue: ICS A142/1d**

**Publisher: Konecky and Konecky, New York: c.1990**

Offprinted from the first American issue, produced for the bargain books counters.

**Extracted Work:**

**LONDON TO LADYSMITH AND IAN HAMILTON'S MARCH**

**Publisher: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., New York [n.d.]**

An "abridgement of the abridgement," this 214-page, 5 1/4 x 8" paperback is in the publisher's "Harvest Book" series, numbered "HB 98." Published at \$1.75, it contains no date. The text covers the Boer War sections of *Frontiers and Wars* but leaves out the illustrations. The cover is printed black with an illustration by John Sposato: British colonial troops firing a cannon.

## 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**