



STEP BY STEP 1936-1939

[1939]

(Cohen A107) (Woods A45)

Some think *Step by Step* is another speech book. In fact it comprises eighty-two newspaper articles, proceeding from the German reoccupation of the Rhineland in March 1936 through the Spanish Civil War, the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis, Hitler's absorption of Austria and Czechoslovakia, President Roosevelt's inquiry about what Hitler and Mussolini intended for the States on their borders, to Churchill's May 1939 prediction that Hitler would next attack Poland. Interestingly, Churchill had planned the last article to be "Will Hitler Make Napoleon's Mistakes?" (first published in *Illustrated*, 4 March 1939, Woods C411/1). At the last moment he substituted "Turkey's Significance as a Partner in the Peace Bloc" (*Daily Telegraph*, 18 May 1939). Perhaps he didn't wish to give Hitler any helpful hints.

After the events described here, it is a measure of the author that *Step by Step* ends with an upbeat Epilogue: "Here then, in an hour when all is uncertain, but not uncheered by hope and resolve, this tale stops. Great Britain [is] ready to confront and to endure what may befall. The shock may be sudden, or the strain may be long-drawn: but who can doubt that all will come right if we persevere to the end." The phrase "all will come right" had been learnt and remembered by Churchill in its Boer original from the Dutch farmers fighting Britain in South Africa nearly forty years before; it was part of his capacious store of maxims carefully filed in his photographic memory.

Another of his qualities, magnanimity, was more extemporaneous. Of Neville Chamberlain, whom he had fought and debated repeatedly for two years, Churchill writes: "Everyone must sympathise with Mr. Chamberlain in his grievous responsibility. No Prime Minister in modern times has had so much personal power to guide affairs. Everything that he has asked of the nation has been granted; and when he has not asked what many thought necessary, no steps have been taken to compel him. There never has been in England such a one-man Government as that under which we have dwelt for the last year. He has taken the whole burden upon himself, and we can only trust that he will not be found unequal to it."

-Richard M. Langworth

From the Reviews

"Churchill rushed the articles into print in book form almost on the eve of World War II, as though to provide the nation with a tract for the war about to be fought. The ideas and rhetoric are similar to those in his speeches of the period, but because the articles do not treat domestic issues, they show a greater concentration and continuity. In fact, chance has imposed on this work a structure that gives it some of the qualities of an intentionally literary composition. Quickly changing circumstances and unexpected events generate much suspense and excitement; thus, Churchill's joy over France's initial standing by Czechoslovakia is followed in the very next piece, 'The Austrian Eye-Opener,' by the electric effect on everyone of Hitler's sudden seizure of Austria. This is, in short, solid drama as well as a neat little history of the period."

*-Manfred Weidhorn in *Sword and Pen*, 1974*

Comments

By the time this work appeared the public was thoroughly aroused, and *Step by Step* enjoyed good sales. As a result, it is not uncommon on the secondhand market today, despite having had only one reprint in the last half century. An important work, it belongs on the shelf of every Churchill reader.

Appraisal

The white jacket soils easily, and although it is not rare, one rarely sees really clean examples. The book holds up better; clean firsts with bright gilt are relatively common, but prices drop off quickly as condition worsens. Reprints in jackets sell for half as much without jackets, a fourth as much if well worn.

-EDITIONS-

[STEP BY STEP]
First Edition: Cohen A107.1 / ICS A45a

Publisher: Thornton Butterworth Ltd., London 1939

Dark green cloth. Top board stamped blind, publisher's device ranged lower right and two thick rules top and bottom which extend across the spine. Spine blocked gilt with title and author's name at top and publisher's name at bottom. Top page edges unstained. 8vo, 368 pages numbered (1)-(366) (+2), one internal map and a folding map of "Modern Europe" tipped in after page (368). The verso of the half-title contains a list of eighteen of the author's works. Endpapers are white. Published 27 June 1939 at 12s. 6d. (\$3.13).

Impressions and Quantities

Woods records three impressions: 7500 in June 1939, 1500 in November 1939, 1800 in February 1940; but there was a second impression in June 1939, making four in all. *Identifying first editions*: title page verso contains the line, "first published...1939" with no further reprints indicated. Note: a typographical error on page 7 (citing page 252 instead of 352 for "After President Roosevelt's Message") persists in all impressions.

Variants

None noted.

Dust Jackets

Jackets are printed black with lilac decorative borders and rules on heavy cream-white paper: on front flap, book title/author name (top) and price (lower right corner); on back flap, blurb for *Great Contemporaries*; on back face, description of *Step by Step*.

[STEP BY STEP]
First American Edition: Cohen A107.2 / ICS A45b

Publisher: G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York 1939

Dark blue cloth blocked silver and red. The top board bears the title in silver on a 3/8-inch high red band near the top; five similar red bands appear on the spine reading STEP | BY STEP | [decorative device] | CHURCHILL toward the top and PUTNAM toward the bottom. Top page edges stained red. 8vo, 336 pages reset and numbered (i)-xii and (1)-(324), frontispiece Wide World photo of the author opposite title page. Endpapers are white. Published 25 August 1939 at \$4.

Impressions

Two impressions are known: August 1939 (5000 copies) and November 1940 (750). *Identifying first editions*: title page verso contains no indication of a later impression.

Dust Jackets and Variants

Uniform style with Putnam's *Great Contemporaries* and *While England Slept*. Printed black and medium green on white paper, with an Acme photograph of the author on the front face. First edition jackets contain the price and book description (front flap), a blurb for Chamberlain's *In Search of Peace* (back flap), and a description of *Great Contemporaries* on the back face. Second impression jackets advertise *Rufus Isaac First Marquess of Reading* on back flap and *The Voice of Destruction* on rear face.

Comments

The American First is taller and more elegant than its English counterpart and includes a frontispiece, but it lacks the two maps of the Thornton Butterworth Edition. Many collectors believe the differences are sufficient to warrant owning one of each. Like the other Putnam productions, the text has been completely reset with American spelling.

Appraisal

Although jacketed copies are far more common than the preceding Putnam titles, only an immaculate jacket wrapped around a fine book will bring a

high price compared to an English first in similar condition. But condition is crucial. Unjacketed copies are almost common and should not cost a great deal, unless in exceptionally nice condition. Reprints are less often seen but certainly worth less.

[STEP BY STEP]
Macmillan Edition: Cohen A107.3 / ICS A45c

Publisher: Macmillan & Co. Ltd., London 1942

Navy cloth blocked gilt on spine (title, author name, publisher name). 8vo, 358 pages numbered (1)-(358), one internal map and a folding map of "modern Europe" tipped in after page (358). No illustrations. Dust jacket printed black and red on heavy textured cream paper. Published March 1942 at 10s. 6d. (\$2.63). Second impression 1943 bound in smooth cloth with dust jacketed printed on distinctly inferior, thin, unscored paper. The second impression dust jacket replaces *Thoughts and Adventures* with *Step by Step* on the rear face.

There were two interesting deletions (no doubt supervised by Churchill) to the Macmillan Edition: "Enemies to the Left" (4 September 1936) and "The Communist Schism" (6 October 1936), both critical of the Communist international movement. Much as he omitted Trotsky and Savinkov from *Great Contemporaries*, considering the sensibilities of his new Soviet ally, Churchill with his usual thoroughness dropped these articles from *Step by Step* lest they be brought to the attention of Stalin. The latter was not blind, however, and several times chided Churchill for his anti-communist views. But the Prime Minister usually managed to josh Stalin along and turn the subject humorous. On one occasion Churchill said the British electorate was getting pinkish; Stalin replied that pink was a healthy colour.

Macmillan Editions are relatively common and inexpensive. This edition should be acquired for its unique textual alterations.

[STEP BY STEP]
Odhams Edition: Cohen 107.4 / ICS A45d

Publisher: Odhams & Co. Ltd., London 1947

8vo, 368 pages numbered (i)-(xvi) and 1-(352) with two maps integral with the text. Four impressions: 1947, 1948 (2), 1949. (Odhams offered this title in 1954 to buyers of Malcolm Thompson's *Churchill: His Life and Times*, under the general series title, "The People's Home Library.")

Copies appeared in the two Odhams bindings: standard bright red cloth blocked gilt and black on top board and spine, page edges unstained; deluxe red leatherette with author signature blocked gilt on top board and black leather title/author label on spine combined with multiple devices, rules and the Odhams name, also gilt, page edges stained red. Dust jackets printed black, medium blue and light blue on white paper. The *first impression* is identified on the verso of its title page by no date beyond 1947 and the code "S.947Q."

Odhams was a mail order bookseller, which helps explain the lack of prices on dust jackets. Deluxe bindings of first four impressions were shipped in grey cardboard boxes with *Great Contemporaries*, *My Early Life* and *Thoughts and Adventures* at 32s. (\$6.40) postpaid to mail order clients.

Completely reset, the Odhams Edition includes a new publisher's note at page ix and a paragraph listing Churchill works at page viii. The former folding map was now printed over a double page spread. More importantly, time had moved on, the Iron Curtain had descended, and Churchill made sure the two original articles on Communism were reinstated.

[STEP BY STEP]
Books for Libraries Issue: Cohen A107.5 / ICS A45e

Publisher: Books for Libraries Press, Freeport, New York 1971

Medium blue cloth blocked blind on top board (publisher's logo) and silver and red on spine (CHURCHILL, title, publisher's logo silver, title on red panel between silver bars); an offprint of the Putnam edition with identical pagination; the frontispiece is reproduced on regular page stock. This volume was offered until the early 1990s by N. W. Ayer. A companion to *While England Slept*, it needs to be reprinted.

Foreign translations

Danish: SKRIDT FOR SKRIDT

Published by Gyldendal: Copenhagen 1939 (2,300 copies), issued in dark blue wrappers.

French: JOURNAL POLITIQUE 1936-1939

Published by Amiot-Dumont: Paris 1938. In addition to the trade edition (bound in wrappers) there was a limited edition of 130 on high quality paper by Rives.

German: SCHRITT FÜR SCHRITT 1936-39

Published by Allert De Lange, Amsterdam 1940. Issued in wrappers or light blue cloth, both with turquoise dust jacket printed dark blue and red. Another edition was published by Jedes: Amsterdam (no date).

Italian: PASSO A PASSO

Published by Mondadori: Rome 1947, bound in half dark blue cloth and medium blue paper covered boards; dust jacket carries full colour portrait of the author. Reprinted 1982.

Norwegian: MOT STUPET

Published by Nasjonalforlaget: Oslo 1963, bound in half white cloth and paper covered boards; possibly also issued unbound.

Polish: KROK ZA KROKIEM

Published by Zaloga: Warsaw 1939

Spanish: PASO A PASO

Published by Editorial Clarid: Buenos Aires 1943

Swedish: STEG FÖR STEG 1936-1939

Published by Skoglund: Stockholm 1939; bound in red, orange and white card wrappers, blue cloth or half leather and marbled boards; jackets printed blue and black on white. Priced at kr9.50 unbound, kr13.50 bound.

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