



## **IN THE BALANCE**

**[1952]**

**(Cohen A247) (Woods A130)**

Like *Europe Unite*, the 1949-1950 speeches had political implications, and fortunately, or by timing, the book arrived just as another General Election loomed. In America, Houghton Mifflin expressed little interest until Churchill won that election, publishing in early 1952. "Now that Churchill is once more at the helm of the British Government, [his speeches are] more than ever significant," they commented. The chief subjects here are the Council of the European Movement, party political broadcasts and addresses, criticism of Labour's foreign affairs and defence management, and fascinating speeches abroad—at Brussels, Strasbourg, Copenhagen, Boston and New York.

By far the greatest speech in this period, alone worth the price of the book, was one that deserved a much wider circulation in America: "The Twentieth Century—its Promise and its Realization," delivered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Mid-Century Conference in March 1949. After a dramatic review of the triumphs and tragedies of 1900 to 1945, Churchill added: "We are now confronted with something quite as wicked but in some ways more formidable than Hitler, because Hitler had only the Herrenvolk pride and anti-Semitic hatred to exploit. He had no fundamental theme. But these thirteen men in the Kremlin have their hierarchy and a church of Communist adepts....They have their anti-God religion and their Communist doctrine of the entire subjugation of the individual to the State." His prescription to the West was to hold the line, so that one day "Russians everywhere would be received as brothers in the human family."

He ended with his Fulton theme of fraternal association. "Do not, my friends, I beg of you, underrate the strength of Britain. As I said at Fulton, 'Do not suppose that half a century from now you will not see 70,000,000 or 80,000,000 of Britons spread about the world and united in defence of our traditions, our way of life, and the world causes which you and we espouse.' United we stand secure. Let us then move forward together in discharge of our mission and our duty, fearing God and nothing else."

*-Richard M. Langworth*

### **From the Reviews**

"Here again is that sonorous roll, that matchless polish, that hammerlike impact and that bird-winged wit, which make him the greatest living orator. To sit with this book for an evening is to share in the making of history."

*-Christian Science Monitor*

### **From the Introduction**

The speeches cover a wide range of topics, both domestic and foreign, and, as in previous volumes, provide a running commentary on political events in the age in which we live. The outstanding events of this two-year period were the devaluation of the £ sterling, the General Election of February 1950, the outbreak of the Korean war, the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the immense rearmament programmes of the United States....While during these two years dangers have grown, the Western Powers have made steady if belated progress along the paths of safety

which Mr. Churchill has persistently sign-posted....Though the peace of the world is far from assured there is an increasingly wide acceptance of the view that time may yet be allowed in which perseverance with these policies may achieve the safety of Western Civilization.

-Randolph S. Churchill

### **Comments and Appraisal**

Third of five English postwar speech volumes, this one deals perhaps with duller and more domestic subjects, but is essential for completeness. Considerably scarcer than its predecessors, it has become quite pricey, especially for fine, jacketed copies. Even "very good" copies tend to bring high prices; the only way to get one for less than that, besides a lucky discovery in a general bookshop, would be to settle for a copy without the jacket. The spine gilt on this edition is prone to fading and is often unreadable on unjacketed copies.

## **-EDITIONS-**

**[IN THE BALANCE]**  
**First Edition: Cohen A247.1 / ICS A130a**

**Publisher: Cassell and Co. Ltd.: London 1951**

Dark blue cloth blocked gilt with title, author's name and CASSELL on spine. 8vo, 468 pages numbered (2+) (i)-(x) and 1-456. Page (ii) lists thirty-one other works by the author. Dust jackets printed black, blue and red on white paper. Published 1 October 1951 at 25s. (\$3.50) in a single impression of 8200 copies. This was the first postwar speech volume printed in England.

**[IN THE BALANCE]**  
**American Issue: Cohen A247.2 / ICS A130b**

**Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Co.: Boston 1952**

Dark tan cloth blocked on spine with brown decorations and in black: "In the | Balance | [brown star] | CHURCHILL and "HOUGHTON | MIFFLIN CO." (all reading across). Pagination identical to the First Edition, but the title page is completely reset, substituting the U.S. publisher's name and the date of U.S. publication plus Library of Congress card number on the title page verso. Dust jacket printed red, black and dull yellow on white paper, with an abstract design of repeat British Arms on front face and spine. Published 1952 at \$5.00 in a single impression of 2000 copies, using sheets supplied by the English printer.

**Appraisal:** Churchill's speeches seemed to be losing their appeal to Americans and Houghton Mifflin again reduced their order, with the result that the American issue is rare today, though not so long ago it sold for very little. Nowadays a fine jacketed copy will cost serious money, and will be worth it. The binding is of good quality and holds up well without the dust jacket; expect to pay a premium for these. Jacket spines fade easily; pay more for an unfaded example.

**[IN THE BALANCE]**  
**Pirated Edition**

Blue cloth blocked silver on spine only: WINSTON S. over CHURCHILL and IN THE BALANCE (reading down). 16mo (5 1/4 x 7 5/8"), 466 pages

numbered (i)-x and 1-456. Offprinted and very slightly reduced from the English Edition. No publisher's imprints inside or out. Although it lacks the usual Chinese characters or Taipei imprints, the thin page stock suggests another in a long line of oriental pirate editions.

### **Foreign Translations**

#### **Swedish: I VAGSKALEN**

Published by Skoglund: Stockholm 1952 in cloth and card wrappers. Later included in a four-volume set of war and postwar speeches.

## 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**