



## **STEMMING THE TIDE**

**[1953]**

**(Cohen A257) (Woods A137)**

The Official Biography informs us that editor Randolph Churchill proposed numerous titles for this work, including *Fight for Survival*, *Against the Stream*, *Shouldering the Burden* and *Uphill All The Way*, as well as the one chosen. His father, as usual, favoured the more upbeat titles: "I rather think 'Stemming the Tide' is the best, but 'Shouldering the Burden' is a good second. (Gilbert, *Never Despair*", page 784).

The speeches, covering 1951-1952, are of particular importance to students of Churchill's second premiership. Notable in the period were the death of George VI, the triumph of Eisenhower in the United States, and Churchill's own return to power, only to find himself too tired, or too unwilling, to alter many of the Attlee policies he had so excoriated over the past half decade. He was old, and tired; to him one great prize remained: peace itself. To his lasting regret, the "settlement" with Russia he would try so hard to engineer continued to elude the world.

Churchill was still full of regrets over India: "...three or four times as many lives were destroyed by violent and avoidable butchery in India as were lost by the whole British Empire in the Second World War," he said in October 1951. "I am astonished that this should be treated as a mere incident in the progress of Oriental liberation and self-government. I am sure that it would have been possible to maintain law and order in India as we did in the face of the armed revolt of the Congress Party at the time of the attempted Japanese invasion without any serious difficulty or bloodshed; and that a Constituent Assembly far more representative of all the real forces of Indian life than the Congress Party could have shaped an Indian constitution and transferred the power to the new rulers of India in an orderly manner....The vast human tragedy which occurred in the process of handling over is a fact for which I thank God I had no responsibility."

Randolph in his Introduction states that his father in these years was still "in the fullest flower...opening another great chapter in a political career," having outlived all his contemporaries: from Rosebery, Balfour and Asquith to Lloyd George, the Chamberlains, Baldwin, MacDonald, Bevin and Cripps, and all the World War II leaders. This was overly sentimental: Churchill experienced a mild stroke in July 1952 and would suffer a serious one a year later; few colleagues thought the Prime Minister of 1951 was the man he had been in the war. In Churchill's own words, "time ends all things."

Yet the course of his life and career were astonishing. Among these pages is a speech at a banquet to honour the new Lord Mayor of London; Churchill here

admits that he has attended such Guildhall ceremonies for over forty years! But: "...this is the first occasion when I have addressed this assembly here as Prime Minister. The explanation is convincing. When I should have come here as Prime Minister the Guildhall was blown up and before it was repaired I was blown out! I thought at the time they were both disasters."

Upon the death of the King he recalls his own youth, "passed in the august, unchallenged and tranquil glories of the Victorian Era," and feels "a thrill in invoking once more, the prayer and the Anthem, GOD SAVE THE QUEEN." And he reaches 400 years back in his mind's eye to recall the first Elizabeth, hoping for a new Elizabethan Age.

*-Richard M. Langworth*

### **From the Reviews**

It is only when Sir Winston speaks for himself that the full flavor of the great Englishman is evoked. These fifty speeches in 1951 and 1952 reflect the Prime Minister as no leisurely, respectful monographs can ever do. Here he is, the real, the irrepressible Winston: bouncing, determined, magnanimous, shrewd and emotional.

Not long ago a Tory bewailed the description of Sir Winston as a 'politician.' The tendency in his own party to regard him as a relic in the National Trust is strong. *Stemming the Tide*, however, shows him as a politician, a great politician in the tradition of Pitt, Lincoln and Gladstone. It also reveals a more human, more likable person than the venerated national hero pictured by some of his contemporaries.

'I will give way in a moment,' he said in the course of a debate in 1951. 'I was giving the right honorable gentleman [Aneurin Bevan] and honourable mention for having, it appears by accident, perhaps not from the best of motives, happened to be right.'

Those who advocate keeping Sir Winston in cotton wool might ponder this retort to the most feared of Labor speakers.

*-Drew Middleton, New York Times Book Review, 28 February 1954*

## **-EDITIONS-**

**[STEMMING THE TIDE]**  
**First Edition: Cohen A257.1 / ICS A137a**

**Publisher: Cassell and Co. Ltd.: London 1953**

Maroon cloth blocked gilt with title, author's name and CASSELL on spine. 8vo, 390 pages numbered (i)-(x) and 1-379 (+1). Page (ii) lists thirty-four other works by the author. Dust jackets are printed black, maroon and light green on white paper and advertise the three previous postwar speech volumes on the front flap and Volumes I-V of *The Second World War* on the back flap. Published 25 June 1953 at 30s. (\$4.20) in a single impression of 5500.

**Variant**

Cassell did not bind all 5500 sheets in 1953. In 1961 a remainder binding in a distinctly tighter, smoother maroon cloth was issued which used up the leftover sheets. The dust jacket is quite distinct, printed black on pale green and without the oak leaf repeat border design Cassell used on all the other postwar speech volumes (the front face is entirely black except for lettering). This remainder jacket omits *The Sinews of Peace*, while adding *The Unwritten Alliance* to the front flap, and advertises all six volumes of *The Second World War* on the back flap.

**Appraisal**

There just aren't enough of these to go round. The remainder binding costs less, for a fine copy in jacket the sky is the limit.

**[STEMMING THE TIDE]**  
**American Issue: Cohen A257.2 / ICS A137b**

**Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Co.: Boston 1954**

Green cloth blocked on spine with green decorations and in black: "Stemming | the Tide | [green design] | CHURCHILL" and "HOUGHTON | MIFFLIN CO." (all reading across). Pagination identical to the First Edition, but the title page is contains the U.S. publisher's name and 1954 date, its verso the Library of Congress card number and note of first U.S. publication. Dust jacket printed red-orange, navy blue and dull gold on white paper, with a stylized crown on face and spine. Published 1954 at \$5.00 in a single impression of 1850 copies, using sheets supplied by the English printer.

**Appraisal**

This was the last speech volume that American publishers chose to publish. Although it had the lowest press run, it seems to be encountered more frequently than the American *Europe Unite*. But it is hardly common, and even unjacketed examples are not cheap.

**Foreign Translations**

**Swedish: STROMKANTRING**

Published by Skoglund: Stockholm 1953 in cloth and wrappers.

## 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**