
EFRL (gift, Christmas 1936)


EFRL (purchased 20-23 August 1938)


JS/CH, 28 January 1959 (*ACTS*, p. 329)

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EFRL (gift, December-January 1940-1941)


JS, *WOD*, Chapter XVII (pp. 249-251)

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"Boileau ... insisted that only gods, kings and heroes were worth writing about. I firmly believe that. The detailed accounts of the lives of clerks don't interest me much, unless, of course, the clerk breaks into hero­ism."

--JS/RB, 11 February 1933 (*SLL*, p. 69)

"Boileau was a wiser man than Mencken."

--JS/Carl Wilhemson, 9 August 1933 (*SLL*, p. 87)

"Boileau said that Kings, Gods and Heroes only were fit subjects for literature. The writer can only write about what he admires. Present day kings aren't very inspiring, the gods are on vacation and about the only heroes left are the scientists and the poor."

--JS/JHJ, [1939] (Bancroft)
"Boileau said, I believe, that only kings, gods and heroes were worthy of literature. I think this holds true still. Kings we do not have, gods we do not write about and heroes no longer come home with their shields or on them. But the pattern breakers come closest."
--JS/Joseph Fontenrose, 2 February 1949 (Bancroft)

"George [Milton, in OMM] is a hero and only heroes are worth writing about. Boileau said that a long time ago and it is still true."
--JS/ALW, 28 August 1957 (SLL, p. 563)

"Tragedy--true tragedy--is laughable unless it happens in a flat in Brooklyn. Kings, Gods and Heroes--maybe their day is over, but I can't believe it."
--JS/EO, 14 March 1959 (SLL, p. 635)

EFRL (loaned out before fire)

RA/RD, 29 July 1979

"Boodin remarks the essential nobility of philosophy and how it has fallen into disrepute. 'Somehow,' he says, 'the laws of thought must be the laws of things....'"
--JS & EFR, SOC, Chapter 27 (p. 257)

"We believed, as we must, that the laws of thought parallel the laws of things."
--JS, "AER" (p. xlv)

"Therefore or ergo, to say that 'the laws of thinking are the laws of things,' is not to utter a paradox, but a true thing."

RA/RD, 19 July 1979

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EFRL (purchased through JS and Viking Press, January 1940)

CS/RD, 13 May 1979

CS/RD, 13 May 1979


117. ———. *Supplement.* Edited by T. Northcote Toller.
"I have the Anglo-Saxon [dictionary]...."
--JS/CH, 20 April 1959 (ACTS, p. 336)
"... Bosworth and Toller--a magnificent thing. Wish I had it all along."
--JS/CH, 1 August [1959] (Bracken)
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With John Steinbeck signature
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"She gave me a copy of her new book. I have not read it yet but I must."
--JS/Katherine Beswick, 22 May 1929 (SUL)
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EFRL (desiderata)

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"The investigations have so far been gratifying. I find that in ... phases of anthropology Briffault ... is headed in the same direction and the direction is toward my thesis. This in itself would indicate the beginning of a new phalanx or group unit."


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JS/Edith Wagner, 1924 (SLL, p. 8)

"Henri the painter heard for the first time the Book of the Dead and he was so moved that he changed his medium."

--JS, CR, Chapter V (p. 17)

"The Book of the Dead is as good and as highly developed as anything in the 20th century and much better than most."

--JS/PC, 13 February 1951 (JN, p. 9)


"Read it instantly and with great pleasure. And what a fine looking and feeling book it is. I am very glad to have it."

--JS/Curt Bühler, 7 April 1960 (PML)

"... last night I dug out and re-read your 'William Caxton and His Critics.'"

--JS/Curt Bühler, 18 March 1966 (PML)

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EFRL (desiderata)


"The women sat among the doomed things, turning them over and looking past them and back. This book. My father had it. He liked a book. Pilgrim's Progress. Used to read it. Got his name in it."

--JS, GOW, Chapter 9 (p. 96)

"She [Steinbeck's Great-Aunt Clara] marched away carrying her weapons--a Bible, Pilgrim's Progress, and McGuffey's First Reader."

--JS, A&A, "Created Equal" (p. 76)
"Some literature was in the air around me. The Bible I absorbed through my skin. My uncles exuded Shakespeare, and *Pilgrim's Progress* was mixed with my mother's milk."
--JS, *ACTS* (p. xi)

"We were asked about new writers emerging, and we mumbled a little about John Hersey and John Horne Burns, who wrote *The Gallery*, and Bill Mauldin, who draws like a novelist."
--JS, *ARJ*, Chapter 8 (p. 163)

Stamped: This Book Belongs to Carol and John Steinbeck

"I know that in some of the later stories Arthur is to us only a kind of Scheharazade, but he was also the heart of the brotherhood."
--JS/EO and CH, 11 July 1958 (*ACTS*, p. 323)
"Actually Arthur becomes a little like the Caliph in the Arabian Nights—a kind of referee of adventures and one who devotes himself to a kind of mild commentary."
--JS/EO, 5 May 1959 (*ACTS*, p. 340)

"I have not the slightest desire to step into Donn Byrne's shoes. I may not have his ability with the vernacular but I have twice his head."
--JS/AGD, 5 November [1929] (*SLL*, p. 17)


"... while Messer Marco Polo remains delightful to me, the horrid example of Hangman's House and the Crusade is always in front of me."
--JS/AGD, 5 November [1929] (*SUL*)


"I think I have swept all the Cabbelyo-Byrneish preciousness out for good,"
--JS/AGD, 5 November [1929] (SLL, p. 17)

"I consider a magnitude of conception and paucity in execution far more desirable than a shallow conception with preciousness. Cabell painted the logical conclusion of that."
--JS/GA, [1931] (Bancroft)

NV/RD, 14 April 1974


"Most of our literature was written by men, and I am inclined to believe that they have given us other men a highly erroneous idea of the sex. There is Cabell who has only known one woman and so he would tell us that all are like the one he knew."
--JS/Katherine Beswick, 3 March [1928] (SUL)

CS/RD, 13 May 1979


"In his [James Flower's] brain, as on his shelves, Caesar's Commentaries stood shoulder to shoulder with Democritus and a treatise on spontaneous combustion."
--JS, COG, Chapter Two, (p. 56)

"'I [Henry Morgan] have been reading of Alexander and Xenophon and Caesar in their wars.'"
--JS, COG, Chapter Two, (p. 60)

"The pain occasioned by this review [of IDB in *The Nation*] is to some extent mitigated by the obvious fact that she understood Caesar's Commentaries as little as my poor screed...."
--JS/Louis Paul, [March 1936] (SLL, p. 121)

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George Robinson/RD, January 1979


"I went to the sources ... to Giraldus Cambrensis Historia Britonum...."

--JS, ACTS (p. xii)

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"How in the hell do we know what literature is? Well, one of the symptoms or diagnostics of literature should be, it seems to me, that it is read, that it amuses, moves, instructs, changes and criticizes people. And who in the world does that more than Capp?"

--JS, "Introduction," *The World of Li’l Abner* (p. [1])


"'Oh, I've [Jim Nolan] read a hell of a lot.... Carlyle....!'"

--JS, *IDB*, Chapter 1 (pp. 7-8)

"I sat in the room in Albany where Carlyle wrote his history."

--JS/ES, 14 October [1949] (SLL, p. 381)

"I must get something very long to go on with like ... Carlyle. But something I have never read."

--JS/ES, [16 October 1949] (SUL)


EFRL (purchased between late November 1936 and 30 January 1939)


EFRL (gift of Webster Street, June 1939)


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"She [Kate] remembered the book—brown, with a silver title, and the cloth was broken and the boards thick. It was *Alice in Wonderland*."

--JS, *EE*, Chapter 50, (p. 631)
"The canneries themselves fought the war by getting the limit taken off fish and catching them all. It was done for patriotic reasons, but that didn't bring the fish back. As with the oysters in Alice, 'they'd eaten every one.'"
--JS, ST, Chapter I (p. 1)


"Do you remember little Sylvie...? She chose a little charm which would make her love everybody and so naturally everybody loved Sylvie. I have always thought that Sylvie never amounted to a damn."
--JS/RC, 1 March 1927 (SUL)


"I have just finished the autobiography of Casanova...."
--JS/Edith Wagner, 1924 (SLL, p. 8)


"In my estimation Willa Cather writes the best prose in America and William Saroyan the worst."
--JS/Lewis Gannett, 10 May [1935] (Houghton)

"Suddenly the great ones stirred to life: Willa Cather...."

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"He [James Flower] 'had blindly followed the injunctions of the shrewd elder Cato in dealing with his slaves.'"
--JS, COG, Chapter Two (p. 57)


"It [Florence] is one of my favorite cities in the world.... I get an electricity out of sitting at Machiavelli's
desk, or walking in a little road Cellini talks about. Lorenzo the Magnificent becomes very real and the angry artists of the Renaissance."
--JS/CS, 7 July 1956 (SUL)

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"For the Wayward Bus could be something like the Don Quixote of Mexico."
--JS/PC, 12 July [1945] (SLL, p. 284)


"And tonight I shall read a great swatch of Don Quixote and who knows—maybe I will finish the second volume some time. I can feel it coming into the end now and with such grandeur and mature sadness."
--JS/ES, 14 October 1949 (SLL, p. 382)

"Miguel Cervantes invented the modern novel and with his Don Quixote set a high mark and bright."
--JS/PC, [1952] (IN, p. 179; SLL, p. 438)

"It occurs to me that what was good enough for Cervantes should be good enough for me. But on the other hand there is no way of knowing whether Don Quixote would go now."
--JS/PC, 10 April 1952 (HRC)

"It is one thing to criticize and quite another to make the criticized not only admit but accept and enjoy the criticism. I can think only of Cervantes and Rabelais who have succeeded in doing this before Capp."
--JS, "Introduction," *The World of Li’l Abner* (p. [3])

"In Spain I am going to make a detailed (and photographed) expedition through La Mancha to all of the places Cervantes wrote about."
--JS/EO, 24 February 1954 (SUL)

"Reading Don Quixote again. That good, good book. It takes on new shapes every time I re-read it."
--JS/EO, 23 March 1954 (SUL)

"Am rereading Cervantes. He lived here [Seville] and was in prison here and the city has not greatly changed."
--JS/EO, 21 April 1954 (SLL, p. 476)

JSPL

"I am outlining a play. It has two characters and it is called A Colloquy of Bugs—somewhat in imitation of A Colloquy of Dogs by Cervantes."
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"And with the sources, I read scholarly diggings and scrabblings—Chambers...."
--JS, ACTS (p. xii)
AN

EFRL (accessioned June 1939)

EFRL (purchased June 1940)


"The conception that the Cycle was the property of the few, the literate, the erudite. That was not so. Chaucer himself has given us the answer. He didn't invent the form nor did Boccaccio."
--JS/CH, 28 January 1959 (ACTS, p. 329)
AN


"I received yesterday the Viking portable of Chaucer. Haven't had a chance to glance into it yet except to see that I like the Modern English approach very well."
--JS/PC, [October 1949] (S&C, p. 128)
"Pat [Covici] sent me the new Viking Portable Chaucer. It looks very fine."
--JS/ES, 2 November 1949 (SLL, p. 383)

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"... but I do know that if I had only read Russian history I could not have had the access to Russian thinking I have had from reading ... Chekhov...."

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EFRL (desiderata)

"Do you remember how Chesterfield instructs his son that the most effective flattery is that told to a third person and repeated?"
--JS/RC, [1929] (SUL)

"When Malory started, he tried to keep intact the French books--largely Chrétien de Troyes."
--JS/EO, 9 July 1958 (ACTS, p. 319)

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EFRL (gift of Webster Street, June 1939)

"'Not very reassuring reading,' said Lee."
--JS, EE, Chapter 43 (p. 560)

JSPL


"Clavigero, a Jesuit of the eighteenth century, had seen more than most and reported what he saw with more accuracy than most."
--JS & EFR, SOC, Chapter 1 (p. 5)

"Clavigero ... emerges as a disciplined, competent, and significant writer."
--JS & EFR, "General References," SOC (p. 581)

EFRL (purchased July 1938)


"'I've [Ellen Hawley] been reading the speeches of Henry Clay. He sure was good.'"
--JS, WOD, Chapter XI (p. 183)


"Collingwood establishes that there was an Ursus or the Bear which in Celtic is Arthur and he quotes Nennius as translating into Latin as Ursus horribilis."
--JS/EO, 3 January 1957 (ACTS, p. 299)

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"I have been having a good bit of fun with the quantum theory, not that I understand it at all even in its primer for the man in the street stage."
--JS/RC, [1929] (SUL)

JSPL


JS/GA, [1932] (Bancroft)

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"I liked Matador for a number of reasons chief of which was that I believed it."
--JS/Barnaby Conrad, 29 December [1952] (SLL, p. 464)

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JS/Katherine Beswick, [late February or early March 1928] (SUL)


CB/RD, 21 September 1979


EFRL (purchased between late November 1936 and 30 January 1939)


JSPL


JB/RD, 14 June 1981


"Some incidental natural history and geographic information."
--JS & EFR, "General References," SOC (p. 581)


"Cooper made up a fund of misinformation about American Indians...."