them for half an hour. She read by installments ... The Sea Wolf, The Call of the Wild--not baby stories ... but exciting grown-up stories."
--JS, POH, Chapter Four (p. 42)

"... Longfellow searched for Hellenic meter and meaning in the life and history of Americans."

JS/CH, 23 June [1959] (Bracken)


JS/ Harry Guggenheim, 18 March 1967 (SUL)


EFRL (accessioned June 1939)

"Lucretius, striking at the teleology of his time, was not so far from us."
--JS & EFR, SOC, Chapter 27 (p. 259)

EFRL (purchased 9 November 1937)
Names beginning with "Me" are placed as though beginning with "Mac."


"And do you remember ... the ancient Welsh story of the man who made a wife entirely of flowers?"
--JS/John O'Hara, 8 June 1949 (SLL, p. 360)

"He simply manufactured the woman he wanted, rather like that enlightened knight in the Welsh tale who made a wife entirely out of flowers."
--JS, "AER," (p. 11)

"I read the Mabinogian tale thirty years ago and yet in Sweet Thursday I repeat the story of the poor knight who made a wife out of flowers."
--JS/CH, 14 March 1957 (ACTS, p. 301)


"I have been reading the Siege of Limerick simultaneously in Macaulay and Sgt. Trim's account of it in Tristram Shandy. What contempt was felt for the Irish before they went into ward politics."
--JS/RB, 11 September [1935] (HRC)

"Oh, I've [Jim Nolan] read a hell of a lot.... Macaulay..."
Some months ago I awakened thinking about Mary Ann [sic] McCarthy's novel, 'The Group.' My dream comment was, 'It's duller than ditch-water,' an evaluation that nicely weathered daylight."

--JS, "Letters to Alicia," Long Island Newsday (28 May 1966)

"... 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)

"It [Florence] is one of my favorie 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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"It is a complete and documented study of California agriculture past and present. It should be read by those people who are confused by the liars and lobbyists who have covered this situation for years."
--JS/EO, 30 July 1939 (SUL)


"... when the war was over, novels and stories by ex-soldiers, like The Naked and the Dead, proved so shocking to a public which had been carefully protected from contact with the crazy, hysterical mess."
--JS, ONCE (p. xii)

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EFRL (purchased 28 December 1939)


"... the Morte d'Arthur of majesty with drawings by Aubrey Beardsley, a sickly, warped creature, a strange choice to illustrate great, manly Malory."
--JS, WOD, Chapter V (pp. 74-75)

AN


"... a cut version called the Boy's King Arthur in about 1900 which was the one I cut my teeth on."
--Js/Mr. and Mrs. David Heyler, 19 November 1956 (SLL,
"But this was mine--It was a cut version of the Caxton Morte d'Arthur of Thomas Malory. I loved the old spellings of the words--and the words no longer used. Perhaps a passionate love for the English language opened to me from this one book."
--JS, ACTS (p. xi)

536. ———. The Byrth, Lyf and Acts of Kyng Arthur....

537. ———. Le Morte Darthur. Edited by Israel Gollancz.

538. ———. Le Morte Darthur. Edited by A.W. Pollard.

AN


"And with the sources, I read the scholarly diggings and scrabblings ... Sommer ["Introduction," Vol. 1; "Studies on the Sources of Le Morte Darthur," Vol. 2]...."
--JS, ACTS (p. xii)

AN


"He [Conybeare] really cleaned it up. He leaves out the illicit oorruption of Arthur so that the confusion is even greater than Malory made it. As far as Conybeare is concerned, Arthur is conceived after the marriage of Igraine and Uther."
--JS/CH and EO, 13 July [1959] (Bracken)

540. ———. Morte Darthur. Edited by Edward Strachey.

"The other day I came across Strachey's volume of Southey's translation [sic] of the Morte. It was cleaned up, so that it might safely be put in the hands of boys.... The translation is good but I'll have no part of the cleaning up for boys."
--JS/CH, 17 May 1957 (ACTS, pp. 306-307)

AN

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"I have always come back to Malory, or perhaps I should say to Caxton's Malory, since that was the only Malory there was until a little over thirty years ago, when it was announced that an unknown Malory manuscript had been discovered in the Fellows Library of Winchester College. The discovery excited me but, being no scholar but only an enthusiast, I had neither the opportunity nor the qualification to inspect the find until in 1947 Eugène Vinaver ... edited his great three-volume edition...."

--JS, *ACTS* (pp. xii-xiii)

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"... we came to the conclusion that the world of Sir John Mandeville has by no means disappeared, that the world of two-headed men and flying serpents [sic] has not disappeared."

--JS, *ARJ*, Chapter 1 (p. 7)

"Fargo [North Dakota] to me is brother to the fabulous places of the earth, kin to those magically remote spots mentioned by Herodotus and Marco Polo and Mandeville."

--JS, *TWC*, Part III (p. 135)

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"Fargo [North Dakota] to me is brother to the fabulous places of the earth, kin to those magically remote spots mentioned by Herodotus and Marco Polo and Mandeville."
--JS, *TWC*, Part III (p. 135)


"Marcus Aurelius, in his semi-Schopenhaueren Stoicism, places the social obligation as one of the primary principles of the art of living (as he calls man a social animal, this I deny). Man is not, at the basis of himself, a social animal, for if he were, society would be in him, not of him."
--JS/Carl Wilhelmson, [1924 or 1925] (*SUL*)

"My chief reading has been pretty immaculate. I have re-read ... Marcus Aurelius...."
--JS/Amassa Miller, [1930] (*SLL*, p. 25)

"Lee watched him [Adam Trask] for a while before he went back to his kitchen. He lifted the breadbox and took out a tiny volume bound in leather, and the gold tooling was almost completely worn away--The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius in English translation."
--JS, *EE*, Chapter 51 (p. 647)

"I had from my father a tiny volume of Marcus Aurelius, the sovereign Meditations. It was pocket size and had been so pocketed that the title was worn off and the edges of the covers soft as sponge. In the insanity of divorce, my wife [Gwyn] who was not insane, kept all of my books. I got to brooding about that one. A new copy would not do, and one day, visiting my boys, I stole it from the shelf and stuffed it in my pocket.... In the fly leaf in my father's hand is written--'John, when you are troubled, open this anywhere.'"
--JS/Adlai Stevenson, 29 June 1960 (*SLL*, p. 675)

"I have looked for a Marcus Aurelius and the ones I have found are big and pretentious. I want one for you, small as a breviary like my father's which he gave to me."
--JS/Mrs. John F. Kennedy, 28 February 1964 (*SLL*, p. 796)

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GG/RD, 3 December 1981.


EFRL (purchased March 1937)


"Even now, the tide establishes a measurable, although minute, weight differential. For example, the steamship Majestic loses about fifteen pounds of its weight under a full moon."

--JS & EFR, *SOC*, Chapter 4 (p. 32)


RA/RD, 31 July 1980


"'One day I met a man in the park. He made list of things for me to read. Oh, I've [Jim Nolan] read a hell of a lot.... He even made me read *Das Kapital."

--JS, *IDB*, Chapter 1 (p. 8)


GG/RD, 3 December 1981

"Doc brought out a book and he read in a clear, deep voice..."
--JS, CR, Chapter XXX (p. 116)

"Do you realize that language reaches its greatest height in sorrow and despair--Petrarca for Laura, the Black Marigold."

"I believe that the Bible says that 'in the beginning was the Word and the Word was God.' Whether we go so far as to say that the Word is God, we can say, without doubt that the Word is surely the most imperishable thing that the human has ever created. I know certain Chinese poetry which was written so long ago that its origin is unknown, and yet which even in translation will start the little ecstacies ... found in the Black Marigolds."
-JS/Clara Leiser, 13 March 1953 (Houghton)

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"I am gradually accumulating a library which would delight you I think. It's a library of words ... Americanisms..."
--JS/CS, 10 September 1952 (SLL, p. 457)

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GG/RD, 3 December 1981


"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)

GS/RD, March 1971
Steinbeck's Reading


Stamped: This Book Belongs to Carol and John Steinbeck

JSPL


EFRL (purchased February 1937)


EFRL (purchased February 1937)


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"The admired books now were by no means the admired books of their day. I believe that Moby Dick, so much admired now, did not sell its first small edition in ten years."

--JS/PC, 16 March 1951 (IN, p. 29)

"At the time when the Golden Age of classic writing was flourishing in the East Coast centers of learning, when the accepted were members of an establishment endowed with the keys to the heaven of literary acceptance, at this very time Herman Melville was writing Moby Dick, the first edition of which did not sell out for forty years...."


AN


"I am gradually accumulating a library which would delight you I think. It's a library of words ... all of Menc-ken..."
--JS/CS, 10 September 1952 (SLL, p. 457)

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Stamped: From the Library of John Steinbeck

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"I have been reading the life of Alfred Nobel...."
--JS, "Nobel Prize Speech" (SLL, p. 898)

EO/RD, 4 June 1976


JSPL


"It [the diary of EE, later published as JN] is one hell of a lot better than Henry Miller's letters."
--JS/EO, 14 July 1965 (SLL, p. 824)


Joel Hedgpeth/RD, 14 May 1979


Presentation Copy

"It [Steinbeck's new novel] is called [In] Dubious Battle from the lines in the first part of the argument of Paradise Lost...."

--JS/GA, 15 January [1935] (SLL, p. 99)

"My new book is called In Dubious Battle, after that magnificent passage in the beginning of Paradise Lost where Lucifer speaks of the 'Innumerable force of Spirits armed....'"

--JS/Wilbur Needham, [1936] (Barrett)

"From where we waded there was a fine picture, still reflecting water and the fringing green mangroves against the burnt red-brown of the distant mountains, all like some fantastic Doré drawing of a pressed and embattled heaven."

--JS & EFR, *SOC*, Chapter 14 (p. 131)


"I am delighted that your volume ... is going into a paperback edition. It will reach a far larger audience, and that is a good thing."

--JS, "Preface," Viking/Compass Edition (p. [vi])


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


   "'Oh, I've [Jim Nolan] read a hell of a lot.... the
   *Utopia*....'"
   --JS, *IDB*, Chapter 1 (p. 8)

   "... a rather adolescent vaporing of Walter Pater and
   the Meditations of Marcus...."
   --JS/ RB, 13 January [1933] (HRC)

   Boston: Little, Brown, 1942.
   "It is a swell piece of work."
   --JS/ Ritch and Tal Lovejoy, [1944] (Bancroft)

590. ———. *John Paul Jones: A Sailor's Life*. Boston:
   Little, Brown, 1959.

591. ———. *The Oxford History of the American People*.
   JSPL

592. *Morte Arthure: An Alliterative Poem of the Fourteenth
   Century*. Edited by Mary M. Banks. New York: Longmans,
   Green, 1900.

593. *Morte Arthur: Two Early English Romances*. Edited by And-
   rew Boyle. Introduction by Lucy Allen Paton. New
   York: Dutton, [1912].
   "Perhaps [Malory] had a few manuscripts, a missal,
   maybe the Alliterative Poems."
   --JS/ EO and CH, 14 March 1958 (ACTS, p. 315)
   AN

   Francisco: J. Dewing, 1888.
   JSPL

595.* Murphy, Denis. *The Sergeant*. New York: Viking Press,
   1958.
   "... a remarkable book. It has none of the faults of
   a young first novelist, faults which took me many
   years to overcome because I thought they were virtues.
   I mean verbosity, ornamentation, and a lack of compact-
ness.... There is a great deal of truth and beauty in this book."
--JS, Dust Jacket comment

EFRL (gift, March 1938)


"This is a book for soldiers to have in case their memories should soften. It is a book for civilians to read because they never knew what it was like."

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"In nature two things do not occur—the wheel and good taste.... Robert Nathan always writes in good taste...."
--JS/PC [1945] (SLL, p. 278)
JSPL

AN


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