

NOTES ON CATALOGUE USAGE

In establishing the books Steinbeck read, owned, borrowed or otherwise had available, the following means of identification (and some easily recognizable variations) appear throughout this catalogue.

(1) AN (Steinbeck's Arthurian Notebook, kept by Chase Horton) refers to books Steinbeck definitely read (but did not always own) in preparation for writing his modernized version of Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*. For example:

38. Artz, Frederick. *The Mind of the Middle Ages*. 2nd ed.
New York: Knopf, 1954.

AN

(2) JSPL (John Steinbeck's Personal Library) refers to books Steinbeck definitely owned (but might not have actually read) at various times during his life. These titles have been compiled from numerous sources, including booksellers' catalogues, personal interviews and inquiries, and first-hand observation of Steinbeck's extant holdings. For example:

255. Ehrenburg, Ilya. *The Fall of Paris*. New York: Knopf,
1943.

JSPL

574. Menen, Aubrey. *The Ramayana*. New York: Scribner's, 1954.

Stamped: From the Library of John Steinbeck

JSPL

Where JSPL (and/or the library stamp) does not appear, it means that Steinbeck read the book (as the annotation makes clear), but he either borrowed it (source unknown) or his own copy was lost or dispersed. For example:

676. Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. *The Yearling*. New York:
Scribner's, 1938.

"... I wish you would read the Yearling again. Just a little boy named Jody has affection for a deer. Now I know there is no plagiarism on The Red Pony."

--JS/EO, 7 February 1941 (*SLL*, p. 225)

(3) EFRL (Edward F. Ricketts' Library) refers to books which Steinbeck had available to him during his frequent visits in the 1930s and early 1940s to Ricketts' Pacific Biological Laboratory on Cannery Row. Many of these books formed the basis for Steinbeck's extensive research on the phalanx theory in the early 1930s, and later, books purchased or acquired by Ricketts in the late 1930s and early 1940s were read by both men in preparation for *Sea of Cortez* and the unfinished San Francisco Bay Handbook. A fire destroyed Ricketts' lab in November, 1936, but he drew up a 15-page "Personal Inventory of Books," which provides a detailed listing of his library holdings during that era, and indicates the date when replacement copies were accessioned (desiderata refers to books in the original collection which were not replaced). For example:

492. Lawrence, T.E. *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran, 1935.

EFRL (purchased February 1937)

710. Sanderson, Ivan. *Caribbean Treasure*. New York: Viking Press, 1939.

"... Sanderson makes some very interesting remarks about vampire bats...."

--JS & EFR, *SOC*, Chapter 25 (p. 236)

EFRL (gift of Pascal Covici, 15 December 1939)

(4) Where a person's initials or name precedes my own, followed by a date, it indicates the source and date of confirmation that Steinbeck read that book, or that particular edition. For example:

66. Baum, L. Frank. *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*. Chicago: Reilly and Britton, 1913.

VS/RD, 28 February 1979

(5) Where one abbreviation or symbol (or one or more annotations) appears after two or more entries by the same author, it is intended to refer to the preceding group of titles. For example:

865. Williams, Tennessee. *Four Plays*. London: Secker and Warburg, 1956.

866. ———. *Suddenly Last Summer*. New York: New Directions, 1958.

JSPL

(6) Where I have been unable to determine which modern edition of a work Steinbeck read or owned, I give its original

date in parenthesis, followed by Edition Unknown. For example:

774. Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. (1852). Edition Unknown.

"I was not aware that either Leaves of Grass or Uncle Tom's Cabin had failed."

--JS/EO, 3 November 1939 (SUL)

(7) Where Steinbeck used or owned an edition other than the original, I give only publishing data for his copy. For example:

6. Adams, Henry. *The Education of Henry Adams*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1927.

CB/RD, 21 September 1979

(8) I have not listed any of Steinbeck's own publications, unless it is a review, introduction, preface or dust jacket blurb for someone else's book. For example:

583. Mirrielees, Edith. *Story Writing*. New York: Viking Press, 1962.

"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])

(9) An asterisk (*) following an entry number in the main inventory means that there is a corresponding note for that entry, or that group of entries. The Explanatory Notes contain additional information on Steinbeck's reading and acquisitions.

(10) Entry numbers followed by lower case letter a or b indicate late additions to the Catalogue.