

CATALOGUE OF
STEINBECK'S READING

“I guess there are never enough books.”
—John Steinbeck to Chase Horton (14 June
1958)

A

- 1.* Abbott, Jacob. *The Rollo Series*. 14 vols. Philadelphia: B.F. Jackson, 1853.
"Then the books, tinted with light, the picture books of children grown, seeded, and gone ... the Rollo series...."
--JS, *WOD*, Chapter V (p. 74)
JSPL
2. Ackerman, Robert. *An Index of Arthurian Names in Middle English*. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1952.
AN
3. Adamic, Louis. *Dynamite: The Story of Class Violence in America*. New York: Viking Press, 1931.
JSPL
- 4.* Adams, Brooks. *The Law of Civilization and Decay*. New York: Macmillan, 1903.
5. ———. *The Theory of Social Revolution*. New York: Macmillan, 1913.
JSPL
- 6.* Adams, Henry. *The Education of Henry Adams*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1927.
CB/RD, 21 September 1979
7. Addison, Joseph, and Henry Steele. *The Spectator*. Edited by Henry Morley. London: Routledge, 1883.
"Very early I conceived a love for Joseph Addison which I have never lost. He plays the instrument of language as Casals plays a cello."
--JS, *TWC*, Part Two (p. 37)
JSPL
8. Ade, George. *Ade's Fables*. New York: Doubleday, Page, 1914.

9. ———. *Fables in Slang*. Chicago: Stone, 1900.
JS, A&A, "Americans and the World" (p. 160)
JSPL
- 10.* Aeschylus. *The Suppliant Maidens, The Persians, The Seven Against Thebes, The Prometheus Bound by Aeschylus*. Translated by E.D.A. Morshead. London: Macmillan, 1908.
Stamped: This Book Belongs to Carol and John Steinbeck
JSPL
11. Aesop. *Fables*. In *Folk-Lore and Fable: Aesop, Grimm, Andersen*. Vol. 17 of The Harvard Classics. New York: Collier, 1909.
"Believe me, I have nothing against fairy tales. God knows I've written enough of them... From the Golden Ass, through Aesop, the Grimm Brothers, to H.C. Andersen, you will find that under the folk fancy lies a tough hard folk truth."
--JS/EO and ALW, 7 April 1962 (SUL)
JSPL
- 12.* Agee, James, and Walker Evans. *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1941.
GS/RD, 27 February 1971
- 13.* Albee, Edward. *A Delicate Balance*. New York: Atheneum, 1966.
JSPL
14. ———. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* New York: Atheneum, 1962.
"Edward Albee, our newest and perhaps most promising young playwright...."
--JS/Leslie Brady, 13 May 1963 (SLL, p. 769)
JSPL
15. ———. *The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith, The Sandbox: Three Plays*. New York: Coward-McCann, 1960.
"My play [A *Colloquy of Bugs*] is a discussion between two or more cockroaches on how we went about destroying ourselves. I don't see why two cockroaches couldn't hold stage as well as two people in garbage cans or a

woman buried in sand."

--JS/EO, 25 June [1962] (LTE, pp. 105-106)

JSPL

- 16.* Albee, George. *Not in a Day*. New York: Knopf, 1935.

"I read *Not in a Day* last night. Finished it about three this morning. I don't know whether it is high or low comedy but I do know it's awfully funny. My own work seems stodgy and heavy by comparison."

--JS/GA, [1935] (SLL, p. 102)

JSPL

17. ———. *Young Robert*. New York: Reynal and Hitchcock, 1937.

"I finished *Young Robert* this evening and it is a much changed book from that first manuscript. It is a good book now.... I'm terribly glad *Young Robert* isn't the horse's ass he was in the first version. This is much the best thing you've done that I've seen."

--JS/GA, [1937] (Bancroft)

JSPL

18. Alexander the Great. *Ephemerides* [Journals]. (4th Century BC). Edition Unknown. See also entry 36.

"I [Henry Morgan] have been reading of Alexander and Xenophon and Caesar in their wars."

--JS, COG, Chapter Two (p. 60)

- 19.* Allee, W.C. *Animal Aggregations*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1931.

"The investigations have so far been gratifying. I find that in ... biology, Allee ... 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."

--JS/CS, 30 June 1933 (SUL)

"Allee was one of my favorites--and still is."

--JS/Joseph Fontenrose, 26 August 1958 (Bancroft)

- 20.* Allen, Fred. *Much Ado About Me*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1956.

JSPL

- 21.* "An American Soldier." *Before I Die*. Los Angeles: Circle-V Press, 1942.
 Inscribed: "To John Steinbeck who could say this so much better.... For all the Joads who inherited the bitter climax yet faithful as ever, are surely learning the better tomorrow."
 JSPL
- 22.* Andersen, Hans Christian. *Tales*. In *Folk-Lore and Fable: Aesop, Grimm, Andersen*. Vol 17 of The Harvard Classics. New York: Collier, 1909.
 "... the heart-breaking stories of Hans Christian Andersen...."
 ---JS, *WOD*, Chapter V (p. 74)
 "Believe me, I have nothing against fairy tales. God knows I've written enough of them.... From the Golden Ass, through Aesop, the Grimm Brothers, to H.C. Andersen, you will find that under the folk fancy lies a tough hard folk truth."
 --JS/EO and ALW, 7 April 1962 (SUL)
 JSPL
- 23.* Anderson, Maxwell. *Both Your Houses*. New York: Samuel French, 1933.
24. ———. *Candle in the Wind*. Washington: Anderson House, 1941.
 ALW/RD, 22 July 1973
25. ———. *Joan of Lorraine*. Washington: Anderson House, 1946.
 "I have read most of the histories, testimonies, novels, and plays which concern Joan [of Arc] and her times...."
 --JS, "Joan" (p. 17)
26. ———, and Laurence Stallings. *The Buccaneer*. In *Three American Plays*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1926.
 CB/RD, 21 September 1979
- 27.* Anderson, Sherwood. *Death in the Woods and Other Stories*. New York: Liveright, 1933.
 EO/RD, 4 March 1976.

28. ———. *Poor White*. New York: Heubsch, 1921.
CS/RD, 13 May 1979
29. ———. *The Portable Sherwood Anderson*. Edited by Horace Gregory. New York: Viking Press, 1949.
JSPL
30. ———. *Winesburg, Ohio*. New York: Heubsch, 1919.
"Sherwood Anderson made the modern novel and it has not gone much beyond him."
--JS/PC, 9 July 1951 (*JN*, p. 122)
"But in considering the American past, how poor we would be in information without ... *Winesburg, Ohio*..."
--JS, A&A, "Americans and the World" (p. 164)
JSPL
31. *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. Translated by G.N. Garmonsway. New York: Dutton, 1953.
"Since Christmas I have been reading....I've been back into ... the Anglo Saxon Chronicle..."
--JS/PC, 7 January 1957 (*S&C*, p. 198)
AN
- 32.* Apulius, Lucius. *The Golden Ass*. (2nd Century).
Edition Unknown.
"Believe me, I have nothing against fairy tales. God knows I've written enough of them... From the Golden Ass, through Aesop, the Grimm Brothers, to H.C. Andersen, you will find that under the folk fancy lies a tough hard folk truth."
--JS/EO and ALW, 7 April 1962 (SUL)
33. Aristotle. *Historia Animalium; De Partibus Animalum; Physica*. (4th Century BC). Editions Unknown.
"Aristotle built a world and we are building one. His was a true world, and ours is. And the two need not meet and quarrel."
--JS, BPT (p. v)
- 34.* Arnold, Henry, and Ira Eaker. *Winged Warfare*. New York: Harper, 1941.
JSPL

35. Arnold, Matthew. *The Poems of Matthew Arnold*. New York: Dutton, 1908.
EFRL (purchased August 1937)
36. Arrian. *Anabasis [Alexander's Campaign]*. (2nd Century).
Edition Unknown. See also entry 18.
"I [Henry Morgan] have been reading of Alexander and Xenophon and Caesar in their wars."
--JS, COG, Chapter Two (p. 60)
37. *Art of Training Animals*. New York: [1869].
With John Steinbeck Blindstamp
JSPL
38. Artz, Frederick. *The Mind of the Middle Ages*. 2nd ed. New York: Knopf, 1954.
AN
39. Arvin, Newton. *Herman Melville: A Critical Biography*. New York: Sloane, 1950.
JSPL
40. Asch, Shalom. *The Mother*. Translated by Elsa Krauch. New York: Putnam, 1937.
41. ———. *Three Cities: A Trilogy*. Translated by Willa and Edwin Muir. New York: Putnam, 1933.
EFRL (desiderata)
42. Ashe, Geoffrey. *King Arthur's Avalon: The Story of Glastonbury*. London: Collins, 1957.
JSPL
- 43.* Atherton, Gertrude. *California: An Intimate History*. New York: Harper, 1914.
44. ———. *The Californians*. London: John Lane, 1898.
NV/RD, 14 April 1975
45. Auden, W.H., ed. *The Portable Greek Reader*. New York: Viking Press, 1948.
"I got to reading Auden's introduction to the Greek portable and it is very fine. He is such a good writer."
--JS/PC, 18 October 1948 (SLL, p. 334)

JSPL

46. ———, and Norman Holmes Pearson, eds. *Medieval and Renaissance Poets: Langland to Spenser*. New York: Viking Press, 1957.
- JSPL
47. Augustinus, Aurelius, Saint. *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*. Translated by E.B. Pusey. New York: Dutton, 1907.
- EFRL (desiderata)
48. Auslander, Joseph, and Audrey Wurdemann. *My Uncle Jan*. New York: Longmans, 1948.
- JSPL
49. Austen, Jane. *Emma*. (1815). Edition Unknown.
50. ———. *Pride and Prejudice*. (1813). Edition Unknown. JB/RD, 14 June 1981
51. Ayscough, Florence, trans. *Fir-Flower Tablets*. English versions by Amy Lowell. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1921.
- EFRL (purchased 13 March 1937)

B

52. Bacon, Francis. *The Essays of Francis Bacon*. Edited by Clark S. Northup. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1908.
- JSPL
53. ———. *Novum Organum*. (1620). Edition Unknown.
- "Then he [James Flower] joined the new-founded school of Bacon."
- JS, COG, Chapter Two (p. 56).
54. Ballou, Robert. *The Glory of God: A Letter to My Son*. New York: Covici-Friede, 1938.
- "This is a beautiful and humble book. I think that more than sons, fathers will take knowledge from it and a way out of confusion. It is a good book to read and I

imagine a very good book to write."
--JS, *Publishers Weekly* (1938)

55. ———, ed. *The Portable World Bible*. New York: Viking Press, 1944.
JSPL
- 56.* Balzac, Honoré de. *Eugénie Grandet*. Translated by Ellen Marriage. New York: Dutton, 1907.
JSPL
57. Bancroft, Giffing. *The Flight of the Least Petrel*. New York: Putnam, 1932.
"The log of an ornithologist's encirclement of lower California by small boat..."
--JS & EFR, "General References," *SOC* (p. 580)
EFRL (purchased 2 September 1939)
58. Banvard, John. *The Court and Times of George IV*. New York: [nd].
JSPL
59. Barnhart, P.S. *Marine Fishes of Southern California*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1936.
"Sparky, when we were looking at Barnhart's [book], saw a drawing of a lantern-fish entitled '*Monoceratias acanthias* after Gilbert' and he asked 'What's he after Gilbert for?'"
--JS & EFR, *SOC*, Chapter 7 (p. 47)
60. Barrie, Sir James. *Peter Pan*. (1904). Edition Unknown.
JS/EO, [July 1950] (SUL)
61. Barrow, G.W.S. *Robert Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1965.
JSPL
62. Barlett, John. *Familiar Quotations*. Edited by Christopher Morley. 12th ed. Boston: Little, Brown, 1948.
"The Barlett arrived this morning. Isn't it funny that I have always wanted one and needed one and never had one?"
--JS/PC, 5 July 1951 (*JN*, p. 121)
JSPL

63. Baskerville, Geoffrey. *English Monks and the Supression of the Monasteries*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1937.
AN
- 64.* Baudelaire, Charles. *Baudelaire, Prose and Poetry*.
Translated by Arthur Symonds. New York: Boni, 1926.
EFRL (purchased 2 September 1939)
65. ———. *Flowers of Evil*. Translated by George Dillon
and Edna St. Vincent Millay. New York: Harper, 1936.
EFRL (purchased August 1937)
66. Baum, L. Frank. *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*. Chicago:
Reilly and Britton, 1913.
VS/RD, 28 February 1979
- 67.* ———. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. (1900). Edition
Unknown.
"We [Steinbeck and his sons] did finish the Wizard. It
was a triumphant moment when we got Dorothy back to
Aunt Em."
--JS/ES, 1 August [1949] (SUL)
68. *The Bayeaux Tapestry: A Comprehensive Survey*. Edited
by Sir Frank Stenton. New York: Phaidon, [1957].
AN
69. Beard, Charles. *The Republic*. New York: Viking Press,
1943.
JSPL
70. ———, and Mary Beard. *The Rise of American Civiliza-
tion*. 2 vols. in 1. New York: Macmillan, 1933.
EFRL (purchased between late November 1936 and 30 Janu-
ary 1939)
71. Bede. *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*. (731).
Edition Unknown.
"Since Christmas I have been reading.... I've been back
into ... Bede...."
--JS/PC, 7 January 1957 (S&C, p. 198)
72. Beebe, William. *Galapagos, World's End*. New York:
Putnam, 1924.

- "The popular log of a biological expedition."
--JS & EFR, "General References," *SOC* (p. 580)
73. ———. *Zaca Venture*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1938.
"A popular and quite satisfying account of the Templeton Crocker Expedition...."
--JS & EFR, "General References," *SOC* (p. 580)
EFRL (purchased May 1940)
74. Bellamy, Edward. *Looking Backward*. (1888). Edition Unknown.
"Oh, I've [Jim Nolan] read a hell of a lot.... Bellamy
....."
--JS, *IDB*, Chapter 1 (p. 8)
CS/RD, 13 May 1979
- 75.* Bellow, Saul. *Dangling Man*. New York: Vanguard, 1944.
76. ———. *The Victim*. New York: Vanguard, 1947.
GS/RD, 27 February 1971
- 77.* Benchley, Nathaniel. *The Monument*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1966.
78. ———. *The Off-Islanders*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1961.
79. ———. *One to Grow On*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1958.
80. ———. *Robert Benchley: A Biography*. Foreword by Robert E. Sherwood. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1955.
81. ———. *Side Street*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1950.
JSPL
82. Benchley, Robert. *Benchley Beside Himself*. New York: Harper, 1943.
GS/RD, 27 February 1971
83. ———. *Love Conquers All*. New York: Henry Holt, 1922.
84. ———. *Of All Things!* New York: Henry Holt, 1921.
"There were many others ... essayists like Benchley and E.B. White. Their source was identical; they learned from our people and wrote like themselves, and they created a new thing in the world--an American literature about Americans."

--JS, A&A, "Americans and the World" (p. 162)

EO/RD, 4 March 1976

85. Benét, Stephen Vincent. *John Brown's Body*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran, 1928.
JSPL
86. Benét, William Rose, ed. *The Reader's Encyclopedia*. New York: Crowell, 1948.
JSPL
87. Bennett, H.S. *Chaucer and the Fifteenth Century*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, [1954].
- 88.* ———. *The Pastons and Their England*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1932.
AN
- 89.* Bennett, J.A.W., ed. *Essays on Malory*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1963.
JSPL
90. Bergson, Henri. *Creative Evolution*. New York: H. Fulton, 1937.
EFRL (purchased March 1937)
- 91.* Berrey, Lester, and Melvin Van Den Bark. *The American Thesaurus of Slang*. New York: Crowell, 1947.
"I am gradually accumulating a library which would delight you I think. It's a library of words ... dic. of slang.
...."
--JS/CS, 10 September 1952 (SLL, p. 457)
JSPL
92. *The Bhagavad-gita*. Translated by Kashinath Telang. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1882.
"What can [a man] say that he will not find in Lao-Tse or the *Bhagavad-gita* or the Prophet Isaiah?"
--JS, ST, Chapter 3 (p. 14)
EFRL (purchased August 1937)
- 93.* Bible. *The Holy Bible*. Translated by James Moffatt. New York: Doran, 1926.
JSPL

94. Bible. *The Living Bible*. Edited by Bolton Hall. Rev. ed. Cleveland: World, 1938.
JSPL
95. Bible. *The New Testament in Modern English*. Translated by J.B. Phillips. New York: Macmillan, 1958.
JSPL
- 95a. Biddle, George. *Artist at War*. New York: Viking Press, 1944.
Presentation Copy
JSPL
96. Bierce, Ambrose. *The Collected Writings*. Introduction by Clifton Fadiman. New York: Citadel, 1946.
JSPL
97. *The Black Book of Caermarthen*. (12th Century). Edition Unknown.
"Later ... I went to the sources--to the *Black Book of Caermarthen*..."
--JS, *ACTS* (p.xii)
98. Blair, Peter. *An Introduction to Anglo-Saxon England*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1956.
"I've been back into ... histories ... of Saxon Britain..."
--JS/PC, 7 January 1957 (*S&C*, p. 198)
AN
- 99.* Blake, William. *The Poems and Prophecies of William Blake*. New York: Dutton, 1927.
EFRL (purchased February 1937)
100. -----, *Poetical Sketches*. London: Scholartis Press, 1927.
With John Steinbeck signature (date 1933)
JSPL
101. -----, *The Poetry and Prose of William Blake*. Edited by Geoffrey Keynes. New York: Random House, 1935.
"These Random House Complete Editions are beautiful things. I find how little of Blake I have really read."