

BEAUX BOOKS #8

ALTERGEISTS

ENGLAND

RECLAIMED

OSBERT SITWELL



EDITH SITWELL'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

SITWELLIANA

BRIGHTON

DANCE OF THE QUICK & THE



Edith Sitwell  
The English

Sacheverell



It doesn't take many steps to connect the three Sitwell siblings – Edith, Osbert and Sacheverell – to the majority of artists, photographers, writers and musicians active in Britain (and further afield) during the first half of the twentieth century. Their patronage was extensive, as was their own output of works.

We have put together a short list of 14 items of Sitwelliana. Books (and a print) that connect the Sitwells with artists such as William Roberts, Edward McKnight Kauffer, Pavel Tchelitchew, John Farleigh, Rex Whistler, Barnett Freedman, Irene Hawkins, Cecil Beaton and Gino Severini.

## BEAUX BOOKS

Fine & Rare Books on Art & Culture

Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, RG27 8TW, United Kingdom

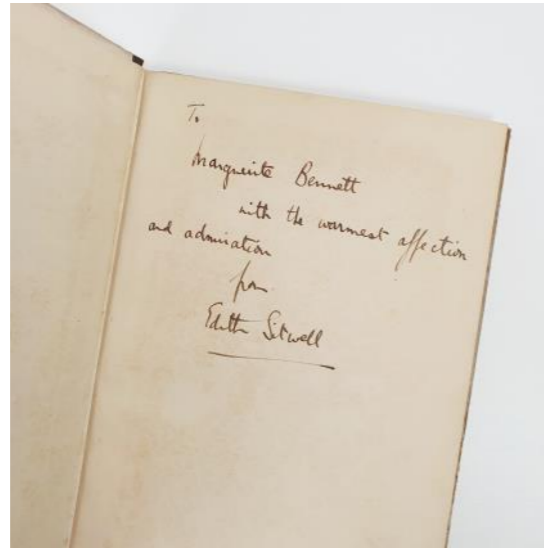
+44 (0)118 3280 280

[clare@beauxbooks.com](mailto:clare@beauxbooks.com)

[www.beauxbooks.com](http://www.beauxbooks.com)

All items are offered subject to prior sale. Additional copies may differ in price. Orders can be placed through the [website](http://www.beauxbooks.com) or sent directly to [clare@beauxbooks.com](mailto:clare@beauxbooks.com).

Poetry collected by Edith Sitwell, with a cover by Vorticist William Roberts



### Wheels 1921. (Sixth Cycle) [Inscribed]

Edited by Edith Sitwell. Cover design by William Roberts.

C. W. Daniel. London. 1921. Inscribed by Sitwell in ink to the front free endpaper - 'To Marguerite Bennett with the warmest affection and admiration from Edith Sitwell'. Hardback, octavo; illustrated boards backed with black cloth, title label to spine. 63 pages. English. 215x145mm. Good.

£250

The sixth volume of Wheels poetry collected and edited by Edith Sitwell, with a cover design by the Vorticist William Roberts. The poetry selection is very much a family affair with several contributions from Sacheverell, Osbert and Edith herself. Aldous Huxley, Alan Porter, Sherard Vines, H. R. Barbor, Charles Orange, Paul Selver and Augustine Rivers are also featured. This was the final 'Cycle' in the Wheels series. The book is warmly inscribed by Sitwell to Marguerite Bennett, wife of Arnold Bennett. French-born Marguerite was a reciter of French poetry and the short-lived Anglo-French Poetry Society was formed around her. The Sitwells were involved in the society, especially Edith who dedicated the Fifth Cycle of Wheels to Marguerite.

[Further reading: National Portrait Gallery, 'The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 1930s', 1994, no. 2.28]

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



An original Commedia dell'Arte-inspired engraving by Gino Severini

**Pulcinella and Columbina. A New Year Card for 1923. Designed by Gino Severini for Osbert and Sacheverell Sitwell [Signed]**

Osbert & Sacheverell Sitwell. Gino Severini.

Naples. 1922. Folded sheet of laid paper with deckled edge. Image size - 180 x 108mm. Engraving to left, signed by Severini in margin; manuscript inscription in black ink to right. English. 220x280mm. Very good.

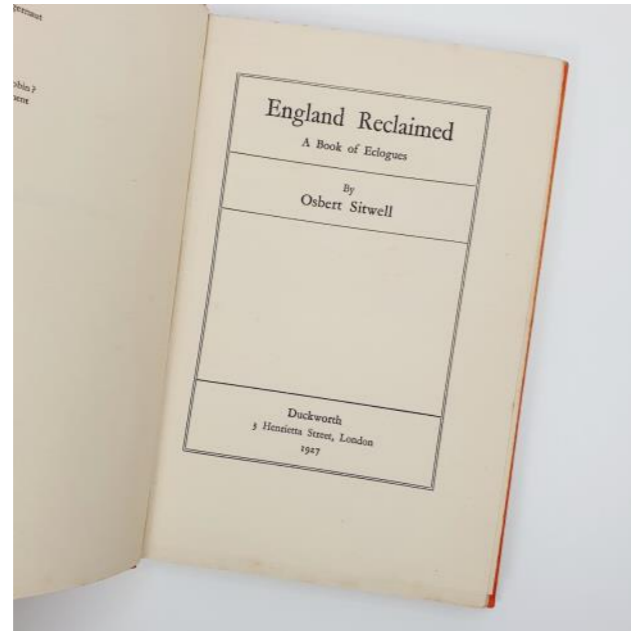
£350

An engraving by the Italian artist Gino Severini intended as a New Year card from Osbert and Sacheverell Sitwell. The stylised manuscript text reads 'A Happy New Year 1923 from Osbert and Sacheverell Sitwell from Naples'. On the opposite side of the folded leaf is an image of Pulcinella and Columbina playing stringed instruments, with two further Pulcinella-like figures in the background. Severini had been commissioned in 1921 by the Sitwell brothers' father, Sir George Sitwell, to paint a mural in his Tuscan home, Castello di Montegufoni. 'La Sala delle Maschere' (Room of Masks) was completed in 1922 and featured characters and objects inspired by the Commedia dell'Arte. Osbert and Sacheverell were involved in the mural painting (they feature as disguised characters) and must have commissioned the New Year card from Severini as he came to the end of the project. Pulcinella and music-playing feature in both mural and print. A copy of the engraving is located in the British Museum collection.

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



A collection of pastoral poems by Osbert Sitwell, in the McKnight Kauffer dust jacket



### England Reclaimed. A Book of Eclogues

Osbert Sitwell. Dust jacket design by E. McKnight Kauffer.

Duckworth. London. 1927. First edition. Hardback, octavo; orange cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. 100 pages. English. 230x150mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

£180

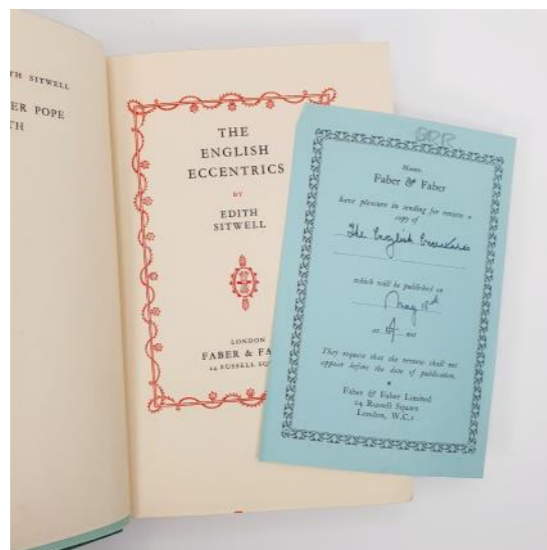
A collection of pastoral poems by Osbert Sitwell, scarce in the original dust jacket designed by Edward McKnight Kauffer. The eclogues touch on an idealised England, a remembered youth and society. The volume is dedicated to Osbert's sister, Edith. Two further volumes form a trilogy of poetry focussed on place. Kauffer's striking dust jacket features a stylised figure representing a modern Green Man.

[Further reading: National Portrait Gallery, 'The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 1930s', 1994, no. 5.7; Artmonsky, Ruth & Brian Webb, 'Kauffer's Covers. The Book Jackets and Covers of Edward McKnight Kauffer', 2021, p. 76]

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



## Edith Sitwell's collection of eccentrics, with a dust jacket by Tchelitchew



### English Eccentrics

Edith Sitwell. Dust jacket design by Pavel Tchelitchew.

Faber and Faber. London. 1933. First edition. Hardback, octavo; green cloth-bound boards, gilt title to spine, top edge gilt, dust jacket. Publisher's review slip and book advertisement loosely inserted. 332 pages. Jacket design reproduced as a frontispiece on matching green paper stock; 15 hors texte b&w plates.

English. 230x155mm. Very good, in good dust jacket.

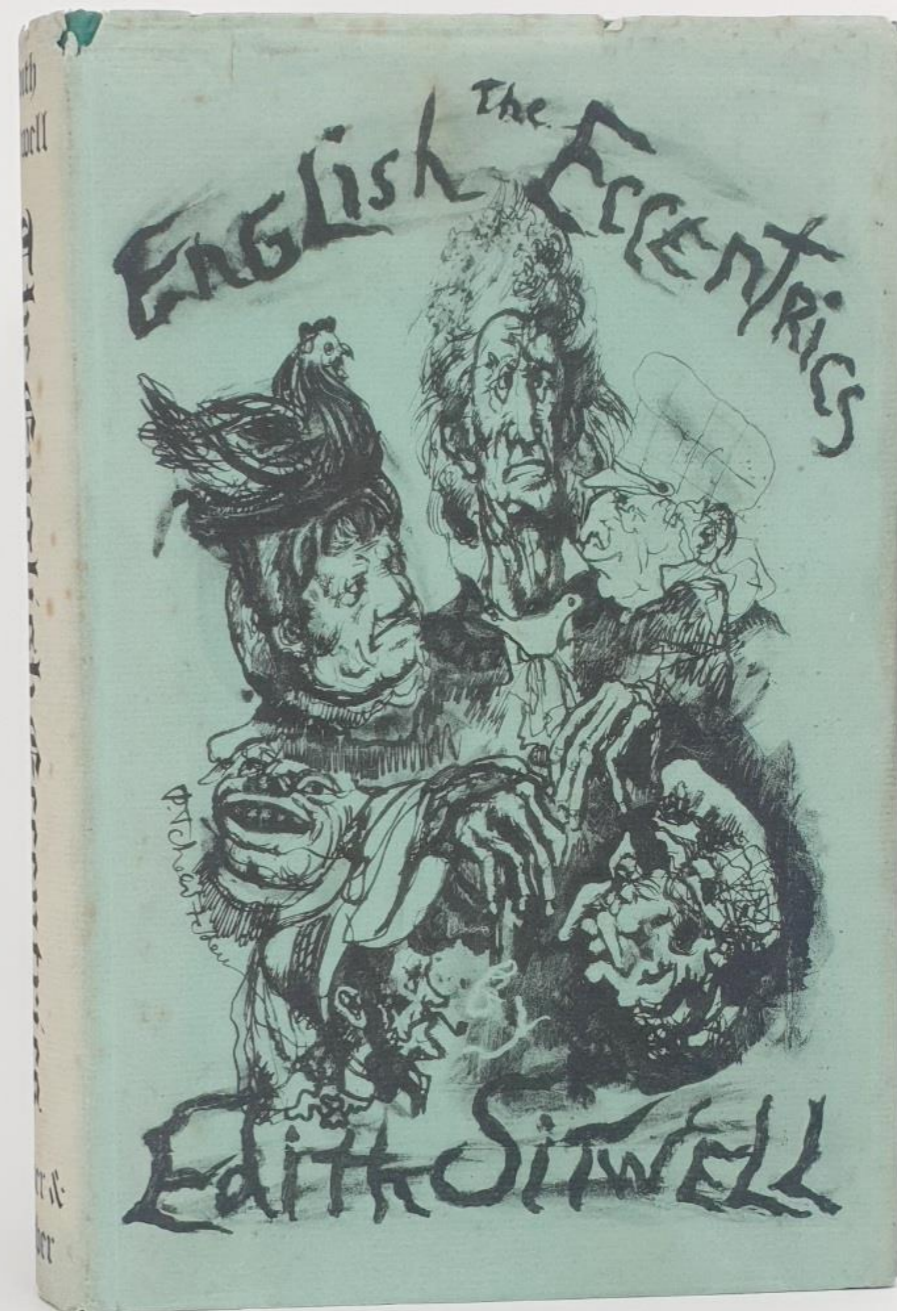
£160

'The author would like to express... her sense of the honour conferred on this book by the magnificent cover drawing by Monsier Pavel Tchelitchew.'

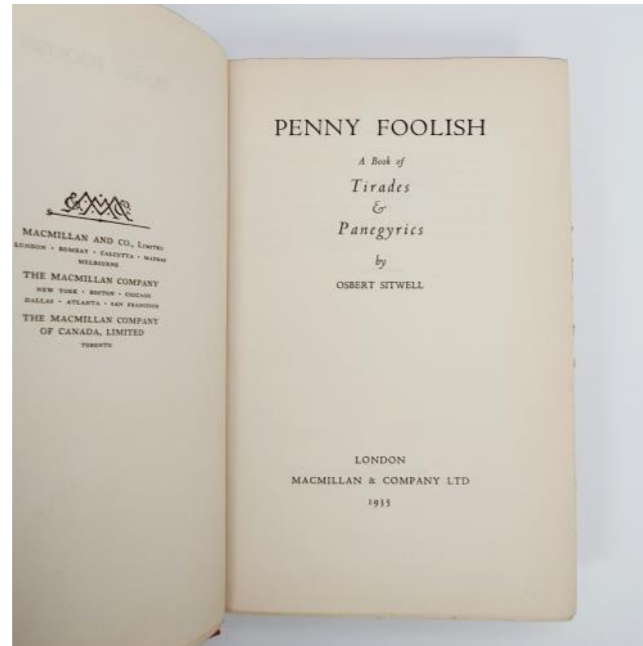
Edith Sitwell, herself an English eccentric, brings together an appreciative selection of unusual character's from England's history. The book is scarce in its original dust jacket by Pavel Tchelitchew. Sitwell was a patron of Tchelitchew and he painted several portraits of her. The book inspired an opera of the same name, premiered in 1964 and with music by Malcolm Williamson and a libretto by Geoffrey Dunn.

[Further reading: National Portrait Gallery, 'The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 1930s', 1994, no. 4.17]

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



## Osbert Sitwell on Rules for Being Rude and Animals versus Children



### Penny Foolish. A Book of Tirades & Panegyrics

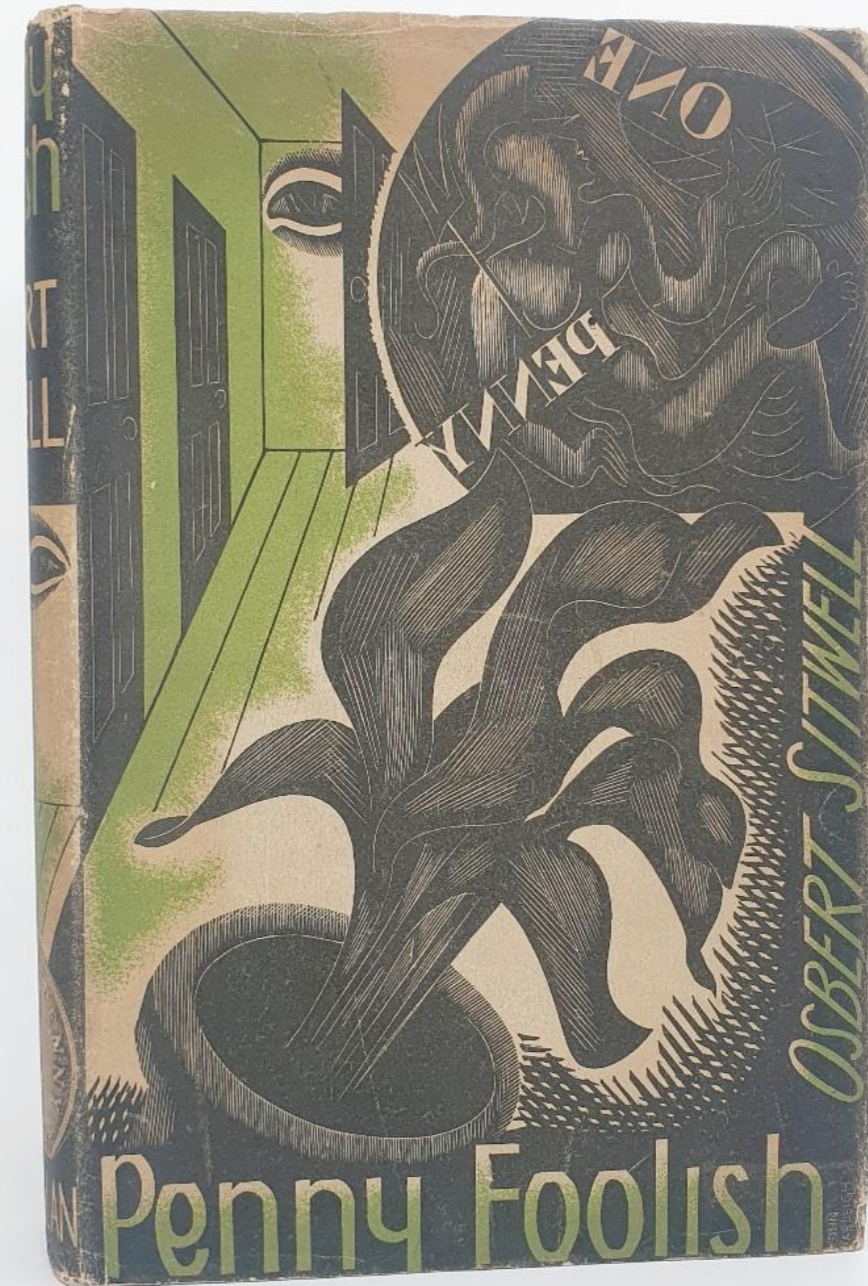
Osbert Sitwell. Dust jacket design by John Farleigh.

Macmillan & Company Ltd. London. 1935. First edition. Hardback, octavo; red cloth-bound boards, top edge red, dust jacket. viii, 372 pages. English. 230x155mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

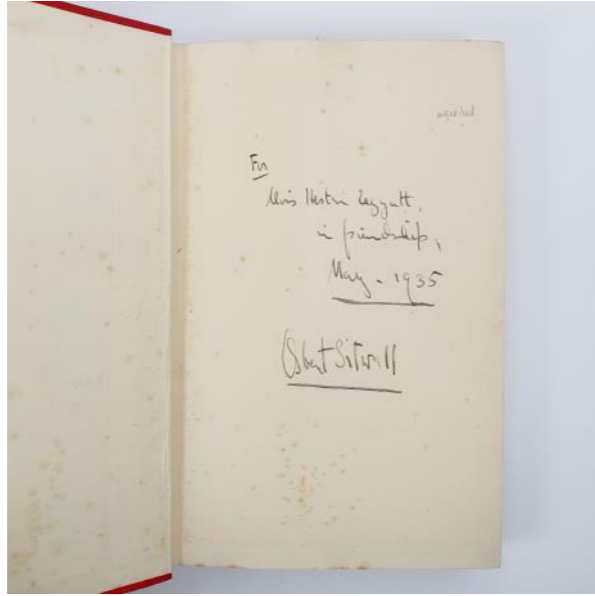
£80

An eclectic collection of writings by Osbert Sitwell, previously published in journals such as Sunday Referee, Daily Telegraph, Morning Post and Harper's Bazaar. Sitwell offers up his opinions on a diverse range of topics and these are divided into themes such as The Best Years of Life, Modern Tendencies, Hints and In the Realm of Art. With a striking dust jacket designed by the illustrator John Farleigh.

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



Osbert Sitwell's biography of 'London-by-the-sea', with the jacket design by Rex Whistler.



### Brighton [Inscribed]

Osbert Sitwell and Margaret Barton. Dust jacket designed by Rex Whistler.

*Faber and Faber and Limited. London. 1935. First edition. Inscribed by Osbert Sitwell in ink to front free endpaper - 'For Miss Hester Leggatt, in friendship, May - 1935. Osbert Sitwell'. Hardback, octavo; red cloth-bound boards, with green title label to spine, t.e.g., dust jacket. 374 pages. 16 hors texte b&w plates. English. 230x155mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.*

£300

A biography of Brighton written by Osbert Sitwell and Margaret Barton. The text relates the journey of Brighton from village to city. Much of the author's focus is on its Regency hey-day, as is the jacket design by Rex Whistler which depicts the Royal Pavilion surrounded by rococo embellishments. This copy is inscribed 'in friendship' to Hester Leggatt by Sitwell. Through initial research it is possible that she is the same Hester Leggett [sic] whose role as head of the MI5 secretarial unit is re-created in the film *Operation Mincemeat*.

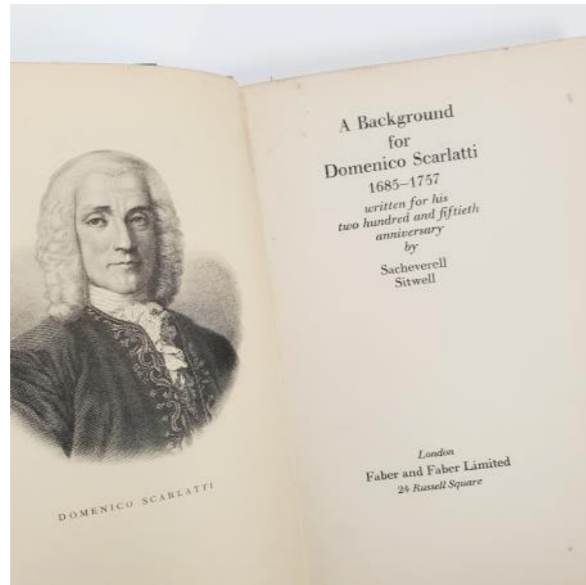
[Further reading: Whistler, Laurence & Ronald Fuller, 'The Work of Rex Whistler', 1960, no. 478]

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)





**An association copy of Sitwell's biography of the Italian composer**



**A Background for Domenico Scarlatti 1685-1757 written for his two hundred and fiftieth anniversary [Association Copy]**

Sacheverell Sitwell.

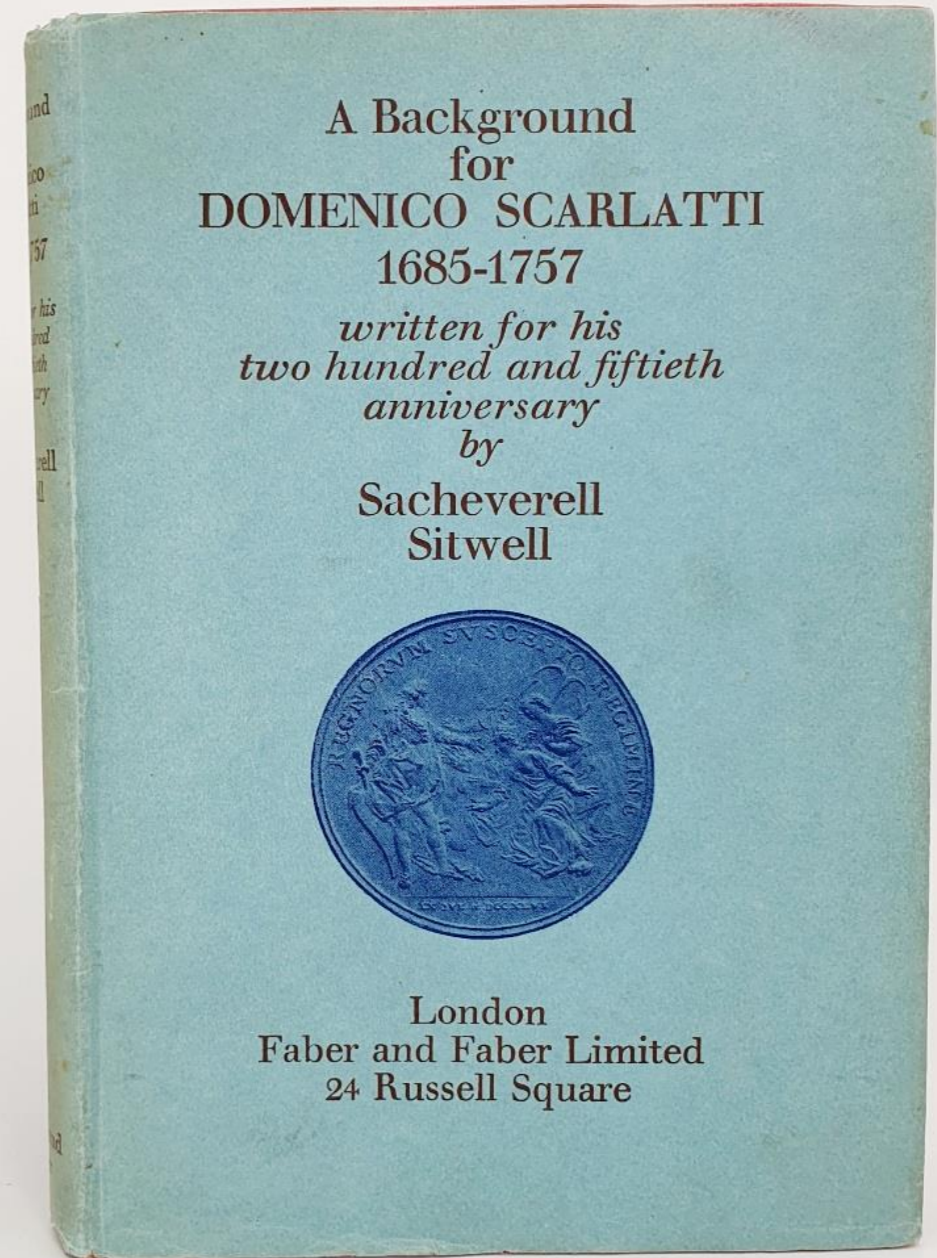
Faber and Faber. London. 1935. First edition. Hardback, octavo; pink cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. 168 pages. Portrait frontispiece. English. 195x135mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

£75

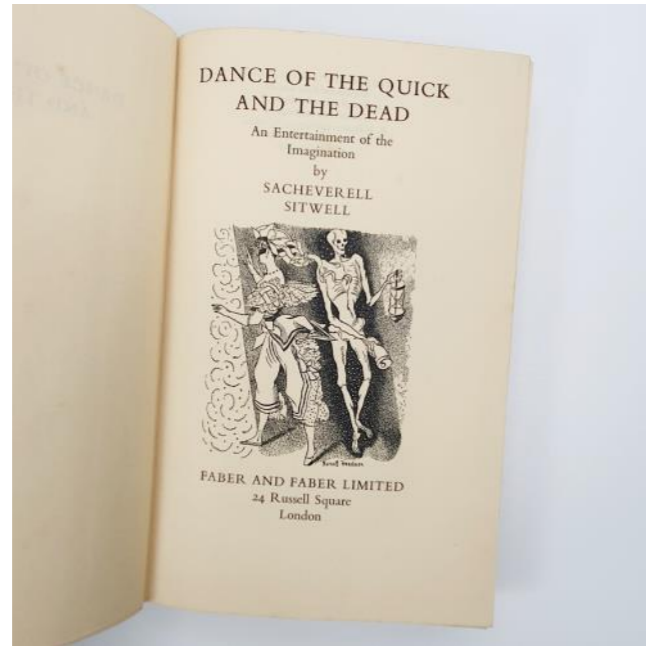
Sacheverell Sitwell's biography of the Italian composer Domenico Scarlatti, written to commemorate two hundred and fifty years since his birth. It follows Sitwell's biography of Liszt.

Provenance: From the library of musician Seymour Whinyates, with his ownership signature. Whinyates was director at the Music Department of the British Council and frequently crossed paths with Sacheverell. Later part of the library of Weston Hall, home of Sacheverell, and included in the Dreweatts 2021 sale Weston Hall and The Sitwells. A Family Legacy. The book was previously exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery 1994 exhibition The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 30s (f62/Cat 6.51d), with the exhibition tissue wrapping with label included.

**[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)**



Sacheverell Sitwell's artistic medley, with jacket design by Barnett Freedman



**Dance of the Quick and the Dead. An Entertainment of the Imagination**

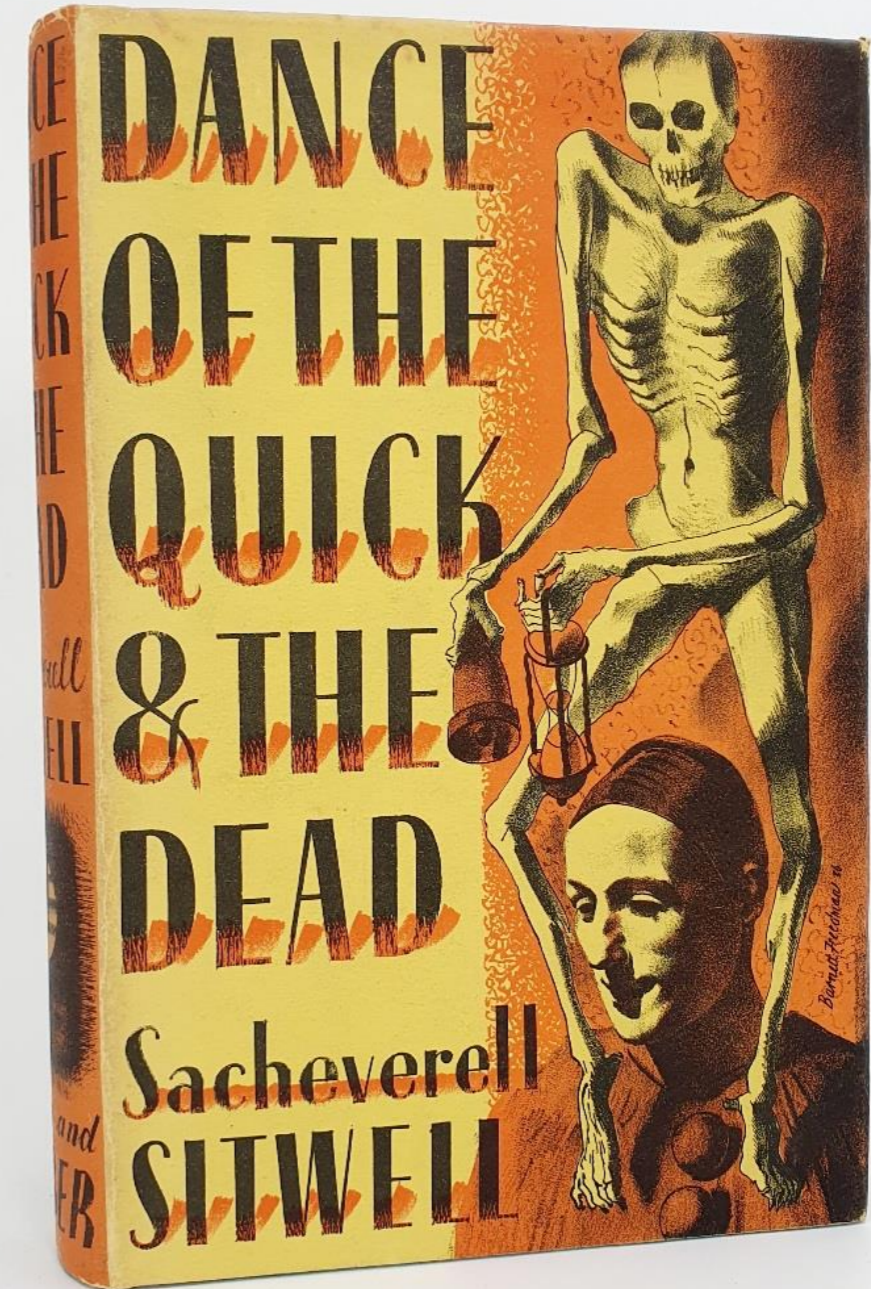
Sacheverell Sitwell. Dust jacket design and title-page by Barnett Freedman.

*Faber and Faber Limited. London. 1936. First edition. Hardback, octavo; green cloth-bound boards, t.e.g., dust jacket. xvi, 413 pages. 15 hors-texte collotype plates and several b&w illustrations in text. English. 225x155mm. Very good, in near fine dust jacket.*

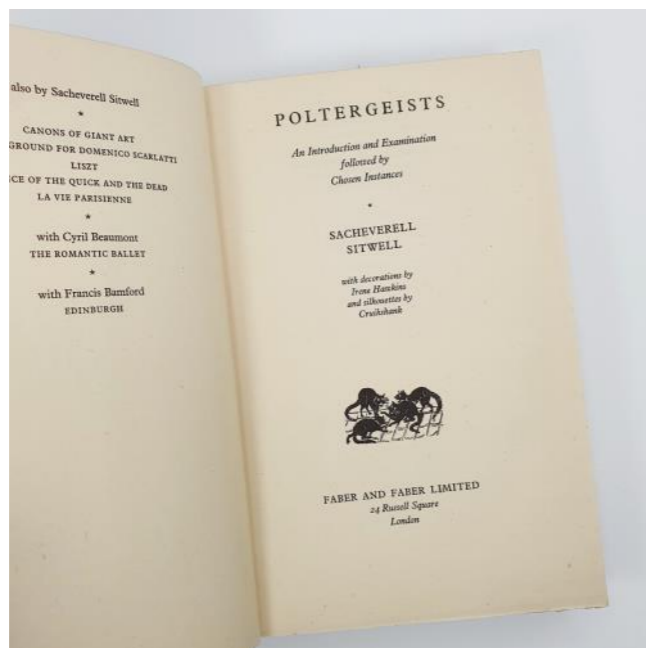
£160

A collection of musings and thoughts on art and society from the pen of Sacheverell Sitwell. In his journey from the Present, through Paradise and Purgatory, to Inferno, Sitwell touches on Breughel, Gin and Slum, Dali, Stravinsky, Pierrots on the sands, Death masks, Spangled prints, Bosch, and so much more. With a striking dust jacket design by Barnett Freedman, who also supplies an illustration to the title-page.

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



'Four hundred pages and Mr. Sitwell promises a shudder on every page'



### Poltergeists. An Introduction and Examination followed by Chosen Instances

Sacherell Sitwell. Jacket design and decorations by Irene Hawkins and silhouettes after George Cruikshank.

Faber and Faber. London. 1940. First edition. Hardback, octavo; black cloth-bound boards, gilt title to spine. 419 pages. B&w text illustrations. English. 225x150mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

£160

Sacherell Sitwell explores the phenomenon of the poltergeist, providing a general introduction and examining individual cases. The book concludes with original accounts of unexplained activity, including 'The Haunting of Hinton Ampner', 'The Great Amherst Mystery' and 'The Case of Mr. G\_\_ in Sumatra'. With a dust jacket and illustrations by Irene Hawkins.

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



## Sacheverell Sitwell's popular book on British architecture

### **British Architects & Craftsmen. A Survey of Taste, Design, and Style during Three Centuries 1600 to 1830**

Sacheverell Sitwell.

*B.T. Batsford. London. Winter 1946-7. Third edition with further revisions. First published in Spring 1945. Hard-back, octavo; red cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. viii, 196 pages. With 200 illustrations from photographs, prints and drawings, some colour. English. 225x160mm. Very good, in good dust jacket.*

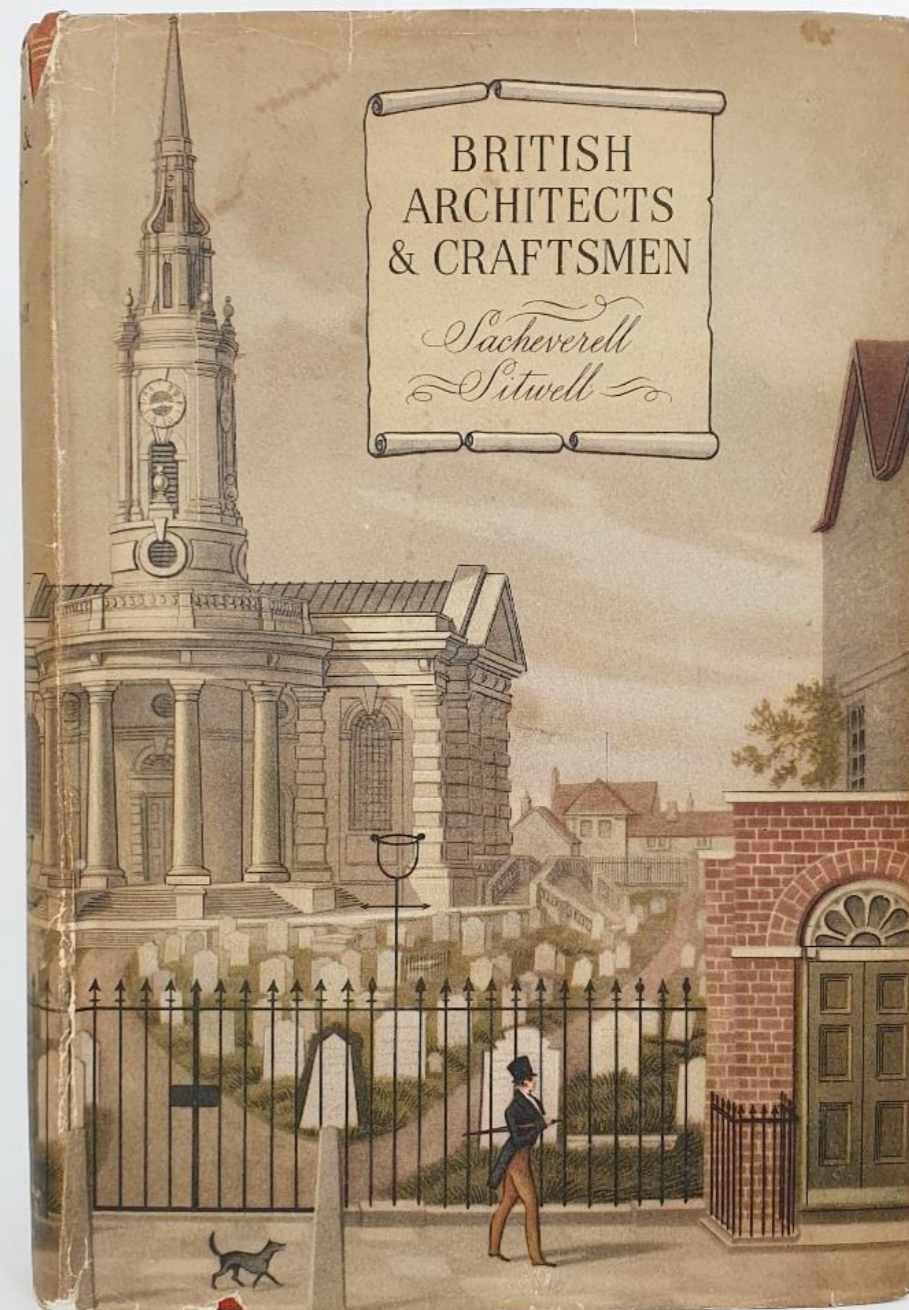
£60

A survey of British architecture and craftsman from Elizabethan to Regency times. First published at the end of the Second World War, Sacheverell Sitwell aims to place British architectural tradition at the forefront of European historical developments. He discusses the work of Inigo Jones, Vanbrugh, Kent, Wren, Gibbs and Adam, alongside lesser-known names.

Provenance: From the library of Julian Vinogradoff, with her ownership signature. Vinogradoff was the daughter of society patron and hostess Ottoline Morrell. Later part of the library of Weston Hall, home of Sacheverell, and included in the Dreweatts 2021 sale Weston Hall and The Sitwells. A Family Legacy. The book was previously exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery 1994 exhibition *The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 30s* (f31/Cat 6.29), with the exhibition tissue wrapping with label included.

[Further reading: *National Portrait Gallery, 'The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 1930s', 1994, no. 6.29*]

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



## Sacheverell Sitwell's text and John Farleigh's sumptuous illustrations of flowers



### Old Fashioned Flowers

Sacheverell Sitwell. Illustrated by John Farleigh.

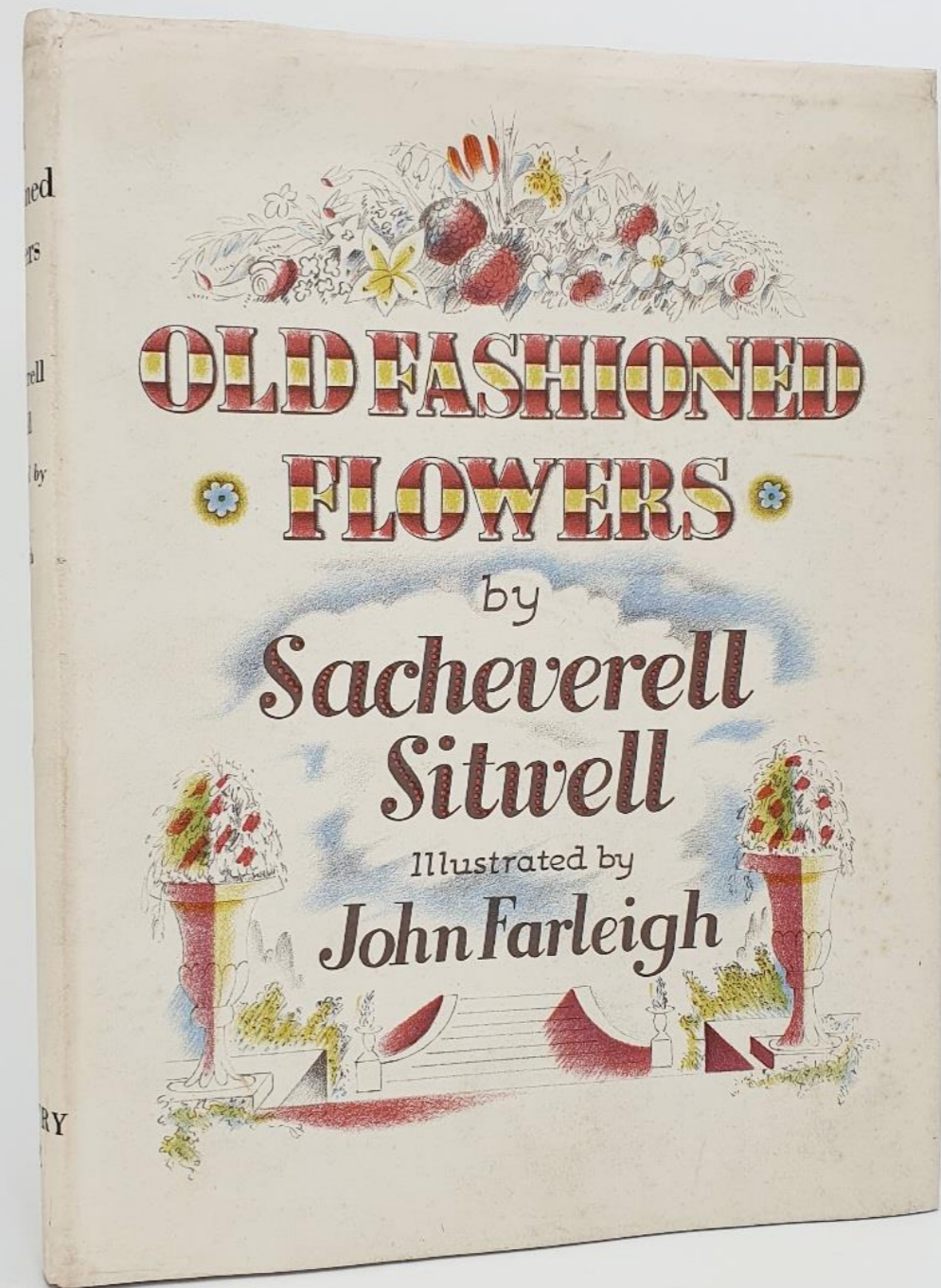
Country Life Limited. London. 1948. Reprint. First published in 1939. Hardback, small quarto; red cloth-bound boards, gilt titles, dust jacket. 193 pages. Dust jacket, title-page, 11 colour lithographs and numerous b&w text illustrations. English. 250x195mm. Good, in very good dust jacket.

£80

Sacheverell Sitwell writes about the charm of "old fashioned" flowers such as auriculas, tulips, primroses, roses, fuchsias, carnations and pinks. The text is heightened by John Farleigh's illustrations which include line drawings, 11 colour lithographs and a repeating title-page and dust jacket.

[Further reading: National Portrait Gallery, 'The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 1930s', 1994, no. 6.28]

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



## Further musings on art and life from Sacheverell Sitwell

### Cupid and the Jacaranda

Sacheverell Sitwell. Dust jacket design by Irene Hawkins.

Macmillan & Co. London. 1952. First edition. Hardback, octavo; pink cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. vi, 317 pages. English. 220x150mm. Very good, in good dust jacket.

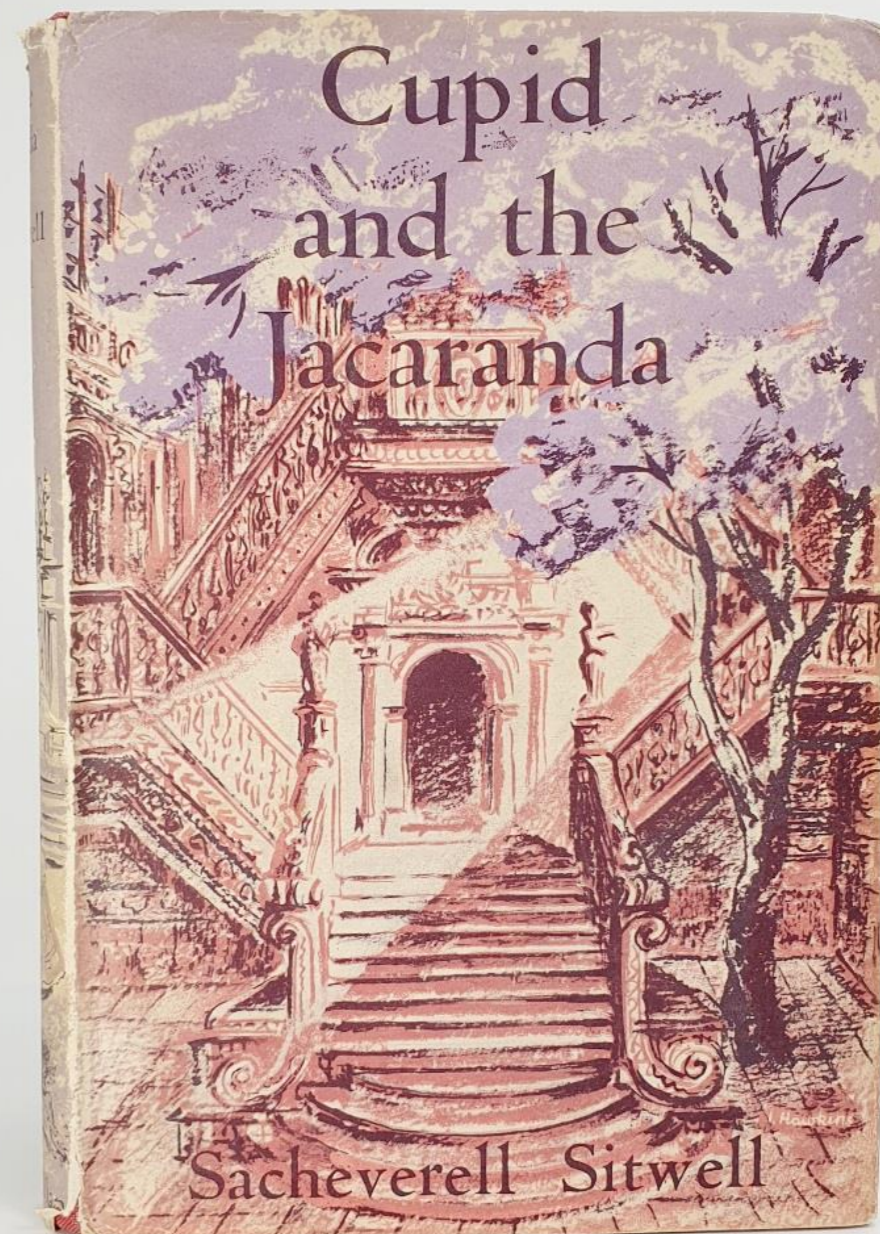
£60

Sacheverell Sitwell continues in the same vein as his earlier *Dance of the Quick and the Dead* and other subsequent works. *Cupid and the Jacaranda* collects together his experiences and musings on subjects such as art, sculpture, architecture, music, theatre, ballet and flowers. Irene Hawkins' dust jacket design is inspired by Sitwell's photographs of Spanish baroque churches.

Provenance: From the library of Weston Hall, home of Sacheverell Sitwell, and included in the Dreweatts 2021 sale Weston Hall and The Sitwells. A Family Legacy. The book was previously exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery 1994 exhibition *The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 30s* (f35/Cat 6.23), with the exhibition tissue wrapping with label included.

[Further reading: National Portrait Gallery, *'The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 1930s'*, 1994, no. 6.23]

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



A pot-pourri of short essays on everything from 'Wagner in the Bath' to 'Famous Clowns'

### Truffle Hunt [Association Copy]

Sacheverell Sitwell. Dust jacket design by Irene Hawkins.

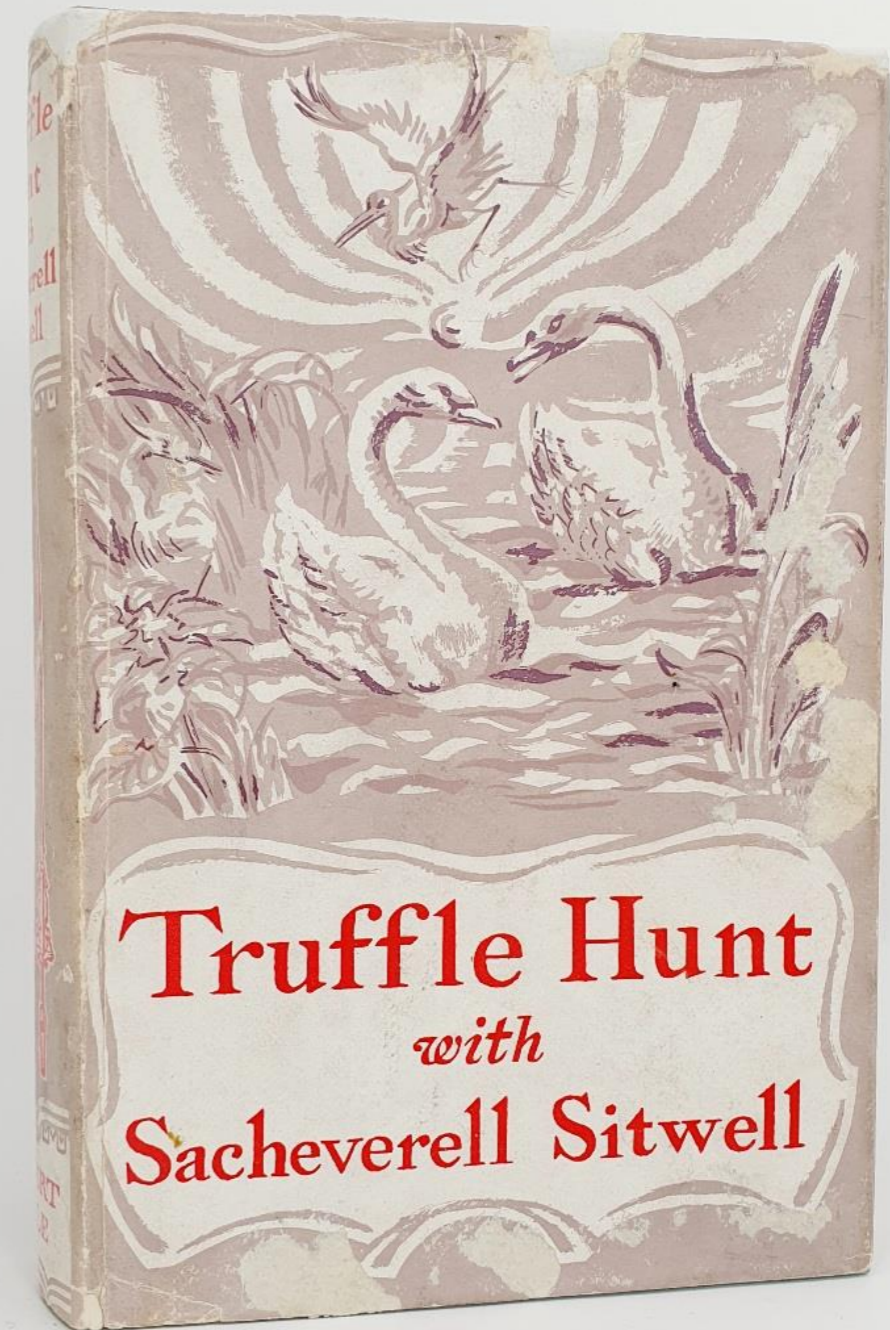
Robert Hale Limited. London. 1953. First edition. Hardback, octavo; blue cloth-bound boards, dust jacket.  
x, 310 pages. B&w hors texte plates. English. 220x150mm. Very good, in good dust jacket.

£60

A pot-pourri of short essays on everything from 'Wagner in the Bath' to 'Famous Clowns', from 'Henry Moore' to 'Mrs. Ada Leverson', from 'Yellow Camellia' to 'Pas de Deux from Don Quixote'. Many were taken from Sitwell's column for The Sunday Times.

Provenance: From the library of Julian Vinogradoff, with her ownership signature. Vinogradoff was the daughter of society patron and hostess Ottoline Morrell. A note 'See p.69' refers to Sitwell's short essay on Morrell. Later part of the library of Weston Hall, home of Sacheverell, and included in the Dreweatts 2021 sale Weston Hall and The Sitwells. A Family Legacy. The book was previously exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery 1994 exhibition The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 30s (f70/Cat 6.511), with the exhibition tissue wrapping with label included.

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



## A proof copy of Edith Sitwell's autobiography



### Taken Care Of. An Autobiography [Uncorrected Proof Copy]

Edith Sitwell.

*Hutchinson & Co. Ltd. London. 1965. Uncorrected proof copy on proofing paper and without illustrations. Paperback, octavo; orange proof wrappers, final dust jacket. 192 pages. English. 235x155mm. Very good, in fair dust jacket.*

£60

A uncorrected proof copy of the autobiography of Dame Edith Sitwell. The memoir was published posthumously as Sitwell died just after she had approved the specimen pages from the publishers. The blurb states 'She did not live to correct her proofs and what, if any, changes she might have made is a matter for conjecture.' The poet's prose fills the pages, telling the story of her life from childhood to her last days - 'These, the three Norms, still visit me. But soon, they will cease to do so. Then all will be over, bar the shouting and the worms.'. The dust jacket features two photographic portraits by Cecil Beaton..

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)

