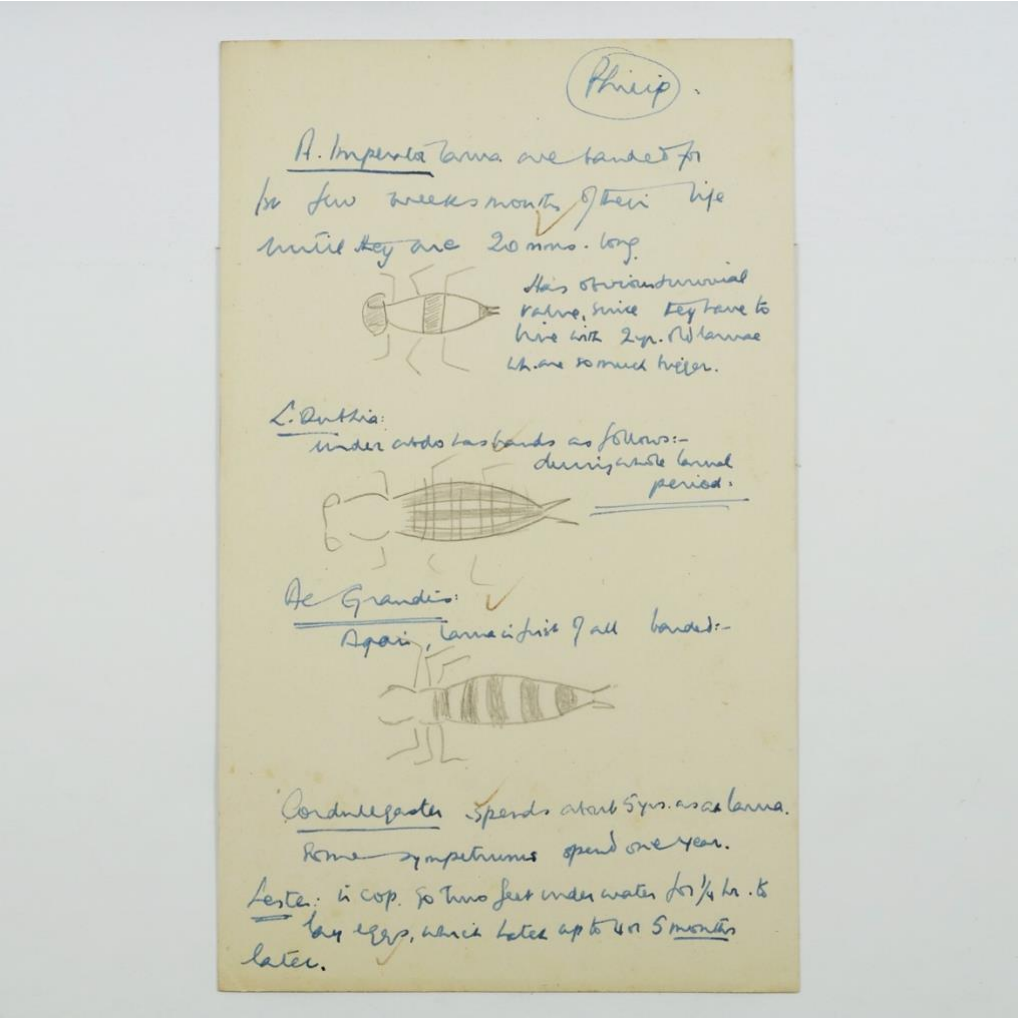
Alembic RARE BOOKS

INSECTS & ARACHNIDS
AUGUST 2022



1. **(Miller, Peter L.) Longfield, Cynthia. Dragonflies of the British Isles.** London and New York: Frederick Warne & Co., Ltd., 1949.

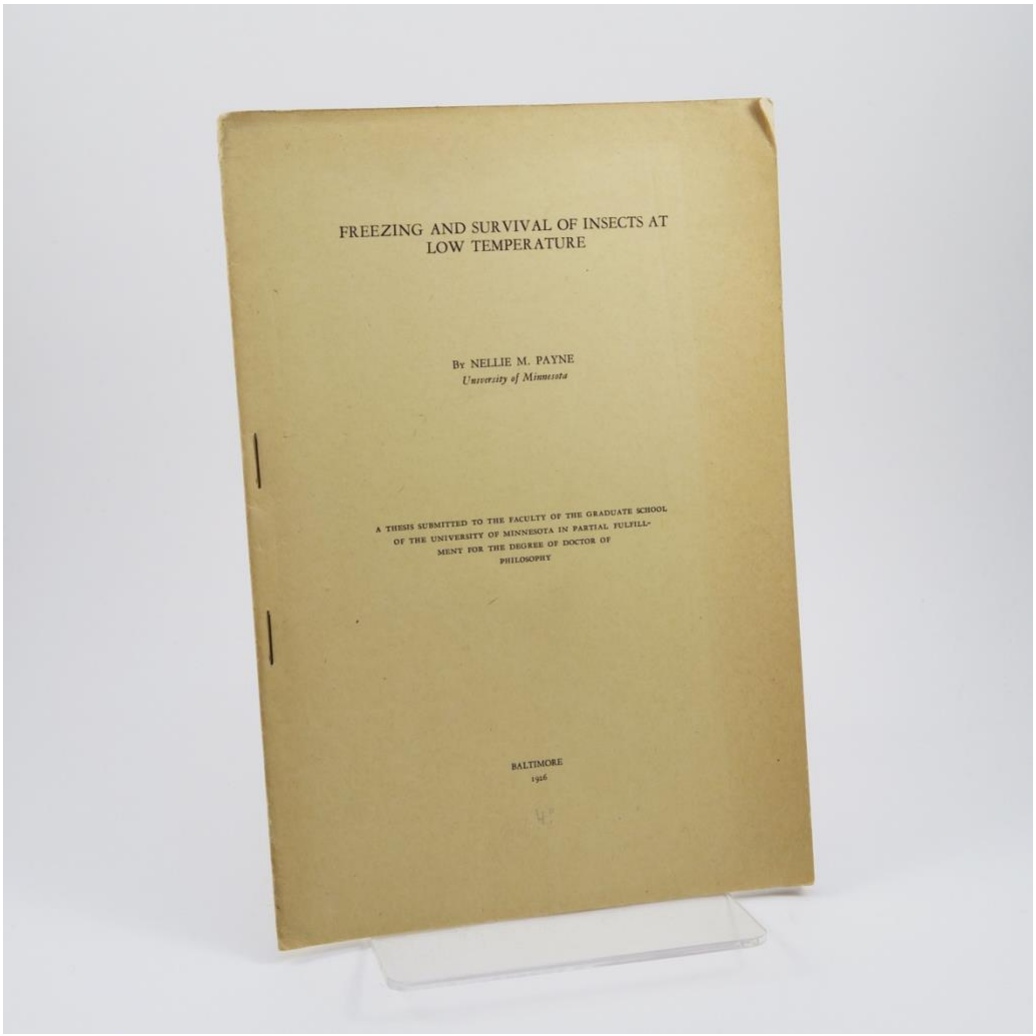
Duodecimo. Original green cloth, titles to spine and upper board and dragonfly device in gilt to upper board, publisher's name and borders to boards blocked in black, pictorial endpapers. With the dust jacket with dragonfly illustration pasted-on to the front. 16 colour plates, 12 double-sided black & white photographic plates, illustrations within the text. Ownership signature of Peter L. Miller to the front free endpaper, some short notes in his hand in the text, and his and his wife's bookplate to the verso of the same. Spine rolled, cloth lightly rubbed at the extremities, a little spotting to contents, particularly the edges of the text block. A very good copy in the rubbed, spotted, and dulled jacket with small nicks and chips from the ends of the spine panel.

Second edition, enlarged, of the authoritative guide of the period. From the library of dragonfly specialist Peter L. Miller, with his ownership signature and bookplate, two manuscript notes in ink in the text, notes and sketches of dragonfly nymphs on a blank postcard, and a dragonfly wing loosely inserted.

Miller was a lecturer in zoology at Oxford who "became widely respected for the excellence of his research on insects, being awarded the prestigious Medal of the Zoological Society of London in 1972. Until the early 1980s he explored physiology and neural control, primarily of respiration but also of rhythmic and motor behaviour, ventilation and learning. His international standing at that time is reflected in the authorship of more than a dozen chapters on these topics in different definitive textbooks on insect physiology… From the early 1980s Miller focused his research on dragonflies, a group of insects for which he had developed a strong affection while in Uganda. His highly developed skills - for interpreting subtle elements of behaviour, for micro-anatomical dissection and for quantifying neural processes - allowed him to reveal much of the structural and behavioural framework on which dragonfly reproduction is based… Increasingly in later years Miller's energies were directed towards conservation of dragonflies and their habitats, especially through facilitating involvement of young people and non-specialists." (Peter Miller obituary, the *Independent*, May 6, 1996.)

In this copy Miller has made two notes in the text: On page 126, under the entry for the Downy Emerald, he wrote, "2 emerged c. 25/5/58 from [?] F. B. A. Windermere". On page 139, under the entry for the Black-lined Orthetrum, "Nymph from F. B. A. Windermere… emerged c. 25/5/58". The most extensive notes are on a blank postcard loosely inserted at page 181. Ink manuscript notes describe the larva (nymphs) of four dragonfly species, with pencilled drawings of three. On the back of the card are additional notes about the effect of temperature on dragonfly development, including a small bar graph showing a two-year larval cycle for a species.

The author of this guide, Cynthia Longfield (1896-1989?), was one of Britain's leading dragonfly specialists. She spent her career as an unpaid worker at the British Museum of Natural History, where she played a major role in collecting and systemising the records of British dragonflies (Ogilvie, *Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science*, p. 802), and she also served as president of the London Natural History Society. The Dragonflies of the British Isles, originally published in 1939, was "accepted immediately as the authoritative guide" (Ogilvie). **£175**



2. **Payne, Nellie M. "Freezing and Survival of Insects at Low Temperature. A thesis submitted to the faculty of the graduate school of the university of Minnesota in partial fulfilment for the degree of doctor of philosophy." Reprinted from the Quarterly Review of Biology, Vol. 1, No. 2, April, 1926, pp. 270-282.** Baltimore: Quarterly Review of Biology, 1926.

14-page offprint. Original cream wrappers, titles printed to upper wrapper, stapled. Tiny pencil notation to upper wrapper. Wrappers partially toned and a little rubbed and creased, mild creasing of the top corners of the leaves. An excellent copy.

The uncommon offprint of the doctoral thesis of entomologist and agricultural chemist Dr. Nellie Maria de Cottrell Payne (1900 - 1990). WorldCat locates only nine copies, mainly in central European institutions, as well as the University of Minnesota, Cornell, and McGill.

Payne was born in Colorado and obtained her graduate degrees at Kansas State Agricultural College and the University of Minnesota. Her research encompassed "insect and invertebrate cold hardiness, pigments of hydroids, and the physiology and mathematics of population growth... Following the completion of her doctorate, she was appointed as a National Research Foundation Fellow at the University of

Pennsylvania until 1927, spending a brief time afterwards at the University of Vienna and University Berlin as a research investigator. She then returned to the University of Minnesota as a lecturer in entomology from 1933 to 1937. Payne also spent numerous summers in the late 1920s and early 1930s at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory in Massachusetts, publishing primarily on the hibernation and low temperature effects of insects and the physiological effects of parasitoids on their hosts… In 1937, she began her career in industry as a research entomologist and zoologist with American Cyanamid. In 1957, she accepted a position as a literature chemist for Velsicol Chemical in Chicago, with whom she remained until 1971… In addition to her active membership in ESA, Payne was also a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Society of Zoologists, and the New York Academy of Science. She served as editor and member staff of *Biological Abstracts* from 1927–1933, and was elected as member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1921" (Entomological Society of America biography). **£100**

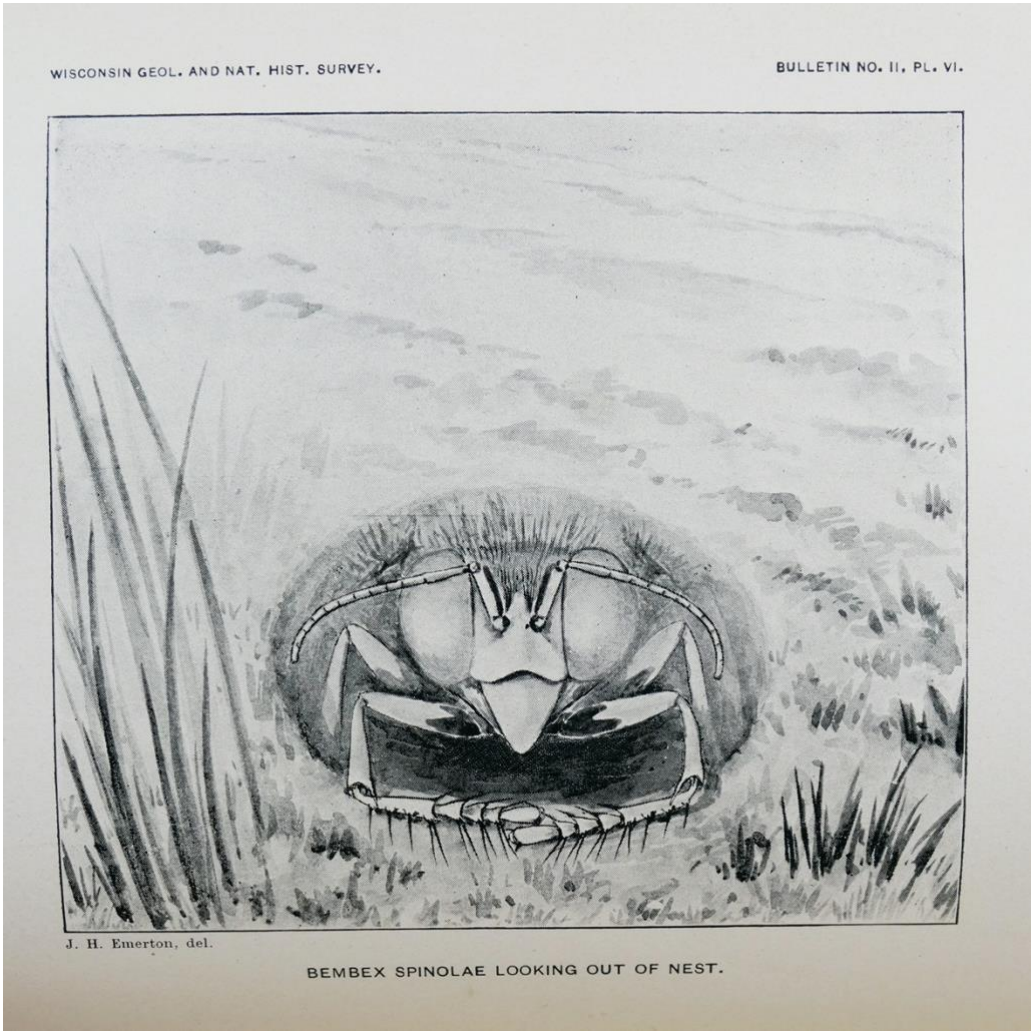
3. **Peckham, George W. & Elizabeth G. On the Instincts and Habits of the Solitary Wasps. [Bound together with] "Additional Observations on the Instincts and Habits of the Solitary Wasps" [in] *Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society*, vol. 1, no. 2, April 1900.** Madison, WI: the state of Wisconsin, 1898.

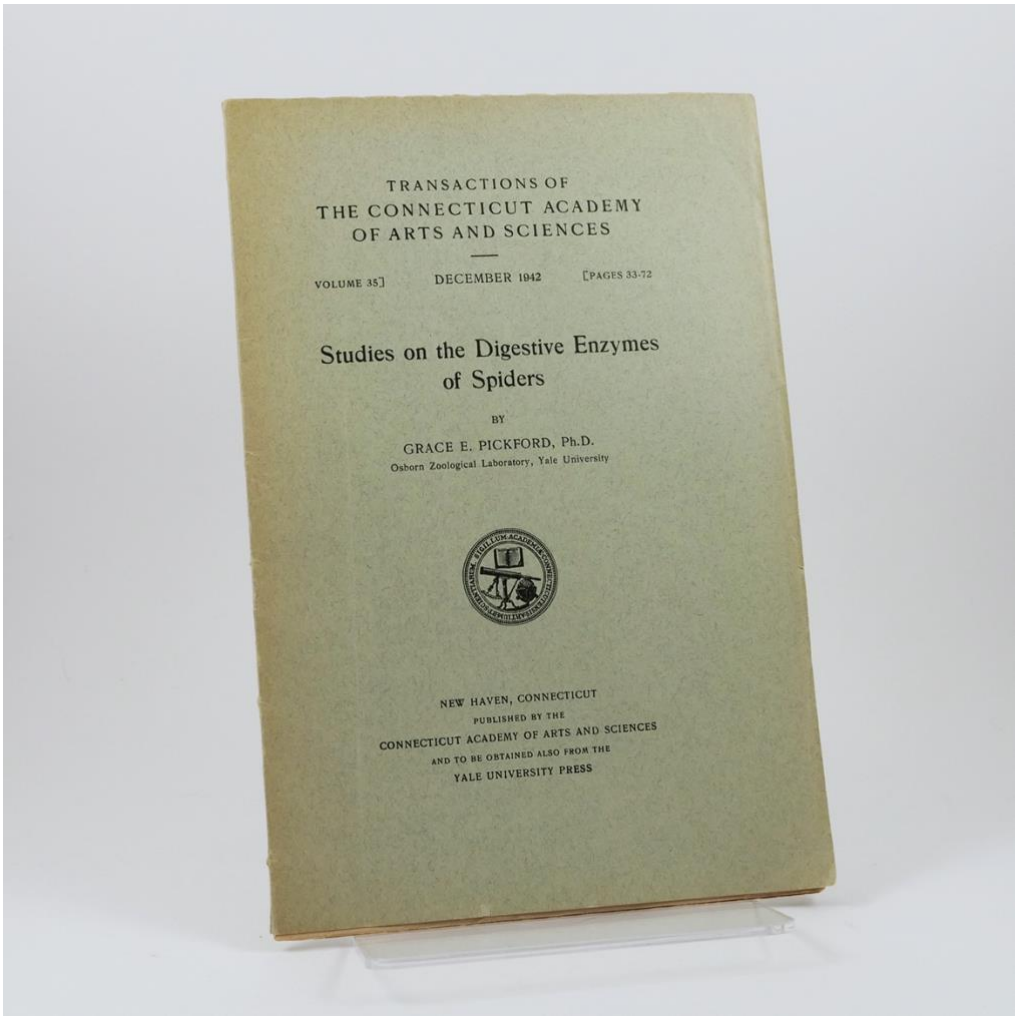
Octavo. Contemporary library style binding of black half skiver, black cloth sides, spine gilt in compartments. 14 plates of which 2 are chromolithographs and the other 12 are lithographs. Binding rubbed with wear at the corners, spine ends, and hinges, contents toned. A very good copy.

First edition, first printing of both titles, the "Additional Observations" being a presentation copy inscribed, "Mr, Claus H. Shirum [?], compliments of the authors".

Elizabeth and George Peckham were entomologists and archnologists who pioneered the study of jumping spiders. They were early proponents of including behaviour in taxonomical analysis and performed some of the first studies on sexual selection.

Elizabeth was the first female science graduate of Vasser, one of Milwaukee's first librarians, and a suffragist. George obtained a medical degree but chose to teach high school, and in 1880 the Peckhams introduced the first biological laboratory course in an American high school, incorporating Darwinian concepts in their pedagogy. Following George's death in 1914, Elizabeth continued their scientific work and was awarded a PhD by Cornell. *On the Instincts and Habits of the Solitary Wasps* is now considered a scientific classic, for both its style and scholarship. **£150**





4. **Pickford, Grace E. "Studies on the Digestive Enzymes of Spiders" [published in] *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences*. Volume 35, December 1942, Pages 33-72.** New Haven, CT: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, Yale University Press, 1942.

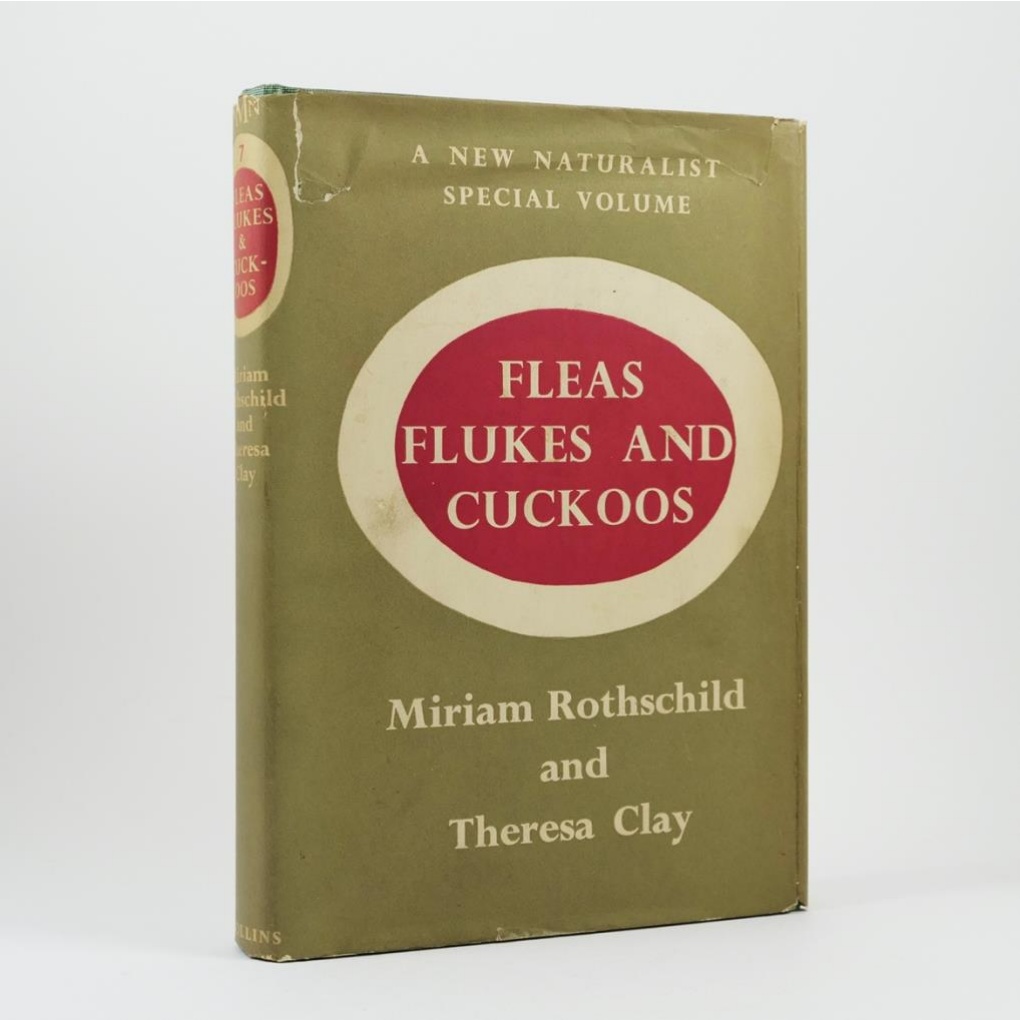
Octavo. Original grey wrappers printed in black. Contents unopened. Two mild, vertical creases to the upper wrapper, just a little faint toning along the edges of the wrappers. Excellent condition.

First edition, first printing. An uncommon offprint by noted endocrinologist Grace E. Pickford (1902-1986). An attractive and fresh copy, the contents unopened.

Pickford was educated at Cambridge and Yale, and taught at Albertus Magnus College, Yale, and Hiram College. Taking advantage of the Yale Peabody Museum's extensive natural history collections, she became an authority on cephalopod systematics and in 1951 joined the Galathea deep-sea expedition to study rare octopods in the Indo-Malayan region.

During the 1940s she began researching the killifish, and it became the organism "on which she established her outstanding work on fish endocrinology. She became interested in the growth rings on fish scales, and the examined effects of the newly developed growth hormone upon the endocrine system of the fish. In the process, she

developed a number of techniques adapted from paediatric research and her earlier work on invertebrates. Pickford published a seminal monograph, *The Physiology of the Pituitary Gland of Fishes* (1957), which soon became the bible for scientists working on the endocrinology of lower vertebrates" (Ogilvie, *Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science* p. 1021)). **£50**



5. **Rothschild, Miriam & Theresa Clay. Fleas, Flukes and Cuckoos. A Study of Bird Parasites. With 90 Black and White Photographs, 4 Maps & 22 Drawings.** London: Collins, 1952.

Octavo. Original green cloth, titles to spine gilt. With the dust jacket. 20 plates, illustrations within the text. Cloth very slightly faded along the edges of the boards, gilt spine titles dulled, light partial toning of the free endpapers. A very good copy in the rubbed and dulled jacket with two closed tears and associated creasing at the top of the upper panel, as well as a few other small nicks and a crease along the fold of the upper flap.

First edition, first impression of this classic by a leading British parasitologist. Miriam Rothschild (1908-2005) was a member of the prominent banking family and was introduced to zoology by her father, an amateur naturalist, and her physician uncle. Though Rothschild had only a limited formal education she was intellectually

self-directed and was recommended for study at the Naples Biological Station, where she "developed a strong interest in parasitology, noting that the molluscs with which she was working were infected with flatworms" (Ogilvie, *Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science*, p. 1128). She then went to the Biological Station at Plymouth where she continued researching parasites and their hosts until her laboratory was bombed during the Second World War.

During the war Rothschild opened her childhood home to refugees and worked with Alan Turing on the Enigma project. "In addition to her active war work, she continued with her natural history investigations, cataloguing her father's collections and studying human and animal parasites, especially fleas. She studied flea reproduction, their host preferences, and the mechanics of flea leaping. In collaboration with Nobeal laureate Tadeus Reichstein, she demonstrated the manner in which the monarch caterpillar's diet of milkweed plants protects it from birds and other predators" (Ogilvie). Rothschild published more than three hundred scientific articles in addition to several successful popular works, and 2,000 of her microscope slides are now part of the Natural History Museum collections. **£60**

6. **Wood, J. G. Insects at Home. Being a Popular Account of British Insects, their Structure, Habits, and Transformations. With Upwards of 700 Figures by E. A. Smith and J. B. Zwecker, Engraved by G. Pearson. New Edition.** London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1881.

Large octavo (215 x 140 mm). Contemporary tan calf prize binding, spine elaborately gilt in compartments, black morocco label, double fillets to boards and Hanley Castle Grammar School Crest to upper board gilt, marbled edges and endpapers, turn-overs ruled in blind. Colour frontispiece and 20 engraved plates, engravings throughout the text. Contemporary presentation inscription to the front blank. Boards a little rubbed and scuffed, small gouge from top edge of lower board, blank piece of paper pasted over an inscription on the verso of the front free endpaper, light spotting to contents. A very good copy.

An attractively bound and copiously illustrated work on British insects by the naturalist John George Wood (1827-1889), originally published in 1872.

Wood began his career in the Church of England, but from the early 1850s "was developing a career as a natural historian; his first book, *The Illustrated Natural History*, was published in 1851. Several more works had followed by 1856, when he

began to give occasional lectures on natural history subjects. Wood's appeal as a populariser of natural history was spotted by the publisher George Routledge. Routledge asked him to contribute to a shilling series of handbooks, starting with *Common Objects of the Seashore* (1857), which enjoyed huge popularity among holiday-makers to the coast. *Common Objects of the Country* (1858) had an even greater success, and Routledge followed this with a three-volume *Illustrated Natural History* (1859) by Wood. Many future naturalists were said to have been inspired by reading these books at an early age... His works on microscopy such as *Common Objects of the Microscope* (1861) and *Nature's Teaching* (1877) are still in use by amateur microscopists who hold him in affection" (ODNB).00198 **£95**