

## **Strong Bidding on Books**

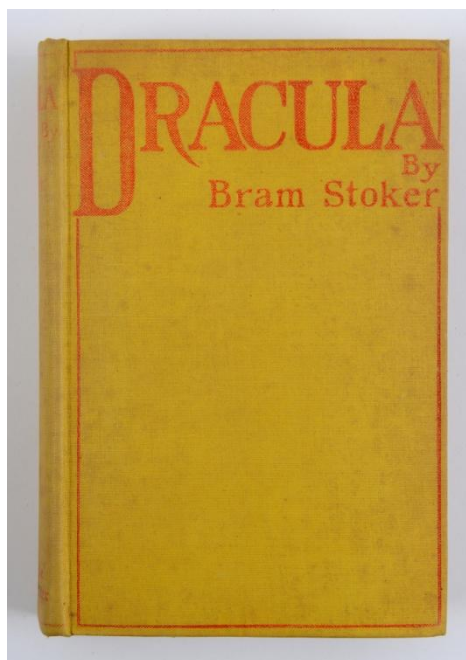
The Charterhouse April two day auction included the Dr MacDonald Critchley library of books from his home near Bridgwater.

“Dr Critchley was a neurologist who himself published over 200 articles on neurology along with 20 books. His library of books was quite extensive on medical books relating to phrenology and neurology from the 19<sup>th</sup> century but he also had a great passion for novels,” commented Richard Bromell. “We were instructed to clear the library of books by solicitors in Devon and the books totalled over £22,000.”

Top selling lot from the library was not a medical reference work, but a book by the father of science fiction – H G Wells. Sadly not one of his more famous tomes such as *The Invisible Man*, *The War of the Worlds* or *The Time Machine*, it was a romantic novel entitled *Ann Veronica*. However, it was a personal presentation copy from H G Wells to the American born British writer Henry James who is regarded as one of the key figures of 19<sup>th</sup> century literary realism. For many years a good friend to Wells, the book was also signed by Henry James and generated a high level of interest before the auction.

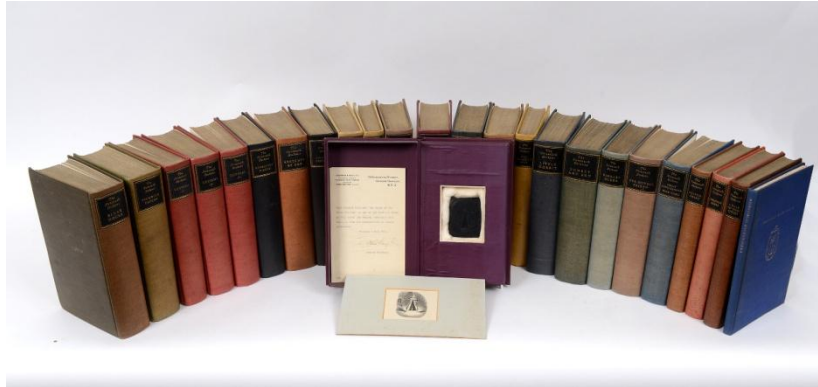
On the day, there were telephone bidders, internet bidders and collectors in the saleroom and the bidding quickly rose to £5,000 at which point the auctioneers gavel came down to a live internet bidder.

Also sold well from the Critchley library was a copy of Bram Stokers iconic gothic novel *Dracula* which sold for £1,500.



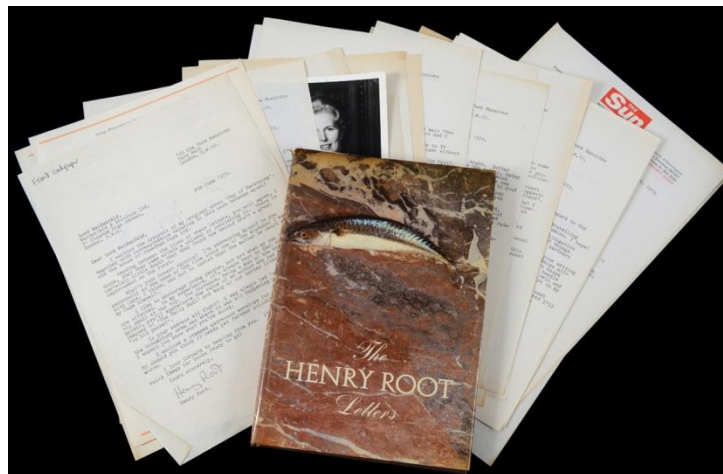
**Bram Stokers – Dracula**

A set of Nonesuch Dickens sold for £2,800-image below.



Also and a copy of David, by D H Lawrence, with his own personal annotations, made £2,800.

Matching the £5,000 bid for the signed Wells book was the collection of letters which formed the first volume of William Donaldson's Henry Root Letters.



**Part of The Henry Root Letters archive, also sold.**

Being offered for auction on behalf of his wife, the archive of letters had been stored in files for years. Also sold with other ephemera and books by William Donaldson, many with presentation inscriptions by him to his wife, the collection totalled over £7,500.

Charterhouse are now accepting book entries for their next specialist book auction. They are also accepting entries for their two day June auction which includes coins, medals and militaria and a day devoted to wine, port and spirits followed by their specialist auction of classic and vintage cars.

For further information regarding these auctions, or to arrange a home visit, please contact **Richard Bromell** at Charterhouse, The Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne **01935 812277** or email items for valuation at **[info@charterhouse-auction.com](mailto:info@charterhouse-auction.com)**