

**Twentieth Century Paperbacks Collection**  
**MSS 219**  
**3.5 linear feet**

**Background**

Writing in *Hardboiled America: The Lurid Years of Paperbacks*, Geoffrey O'Brien summarizes the rise of the modern American paperback book:

Cheap reprints and books bound in paper arose and flourished sporadically in America from the nineteenth century onwards. Although most of these were purely commercial efforts, a significant percentage were associated with a zeal for bringing culture to the masses. Nevertheless, and despite the obvious practicality of cheap mass printing, no one had been able to give that kind of publishing any permanence until June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1939, when the first ten releases of Pocket Books saw the light of day. Robert DeGraff, the company's founder, may have been influenced by the success of Penguin Books, which had begun publishing several years earlier in England (33).

Commenting on the cover art, Mr. O'Brien wrote:

What surprises in the end is how much of paperback art of the Forties and Fifties conveys a sense of reality and a warmth of emotion. Even the fantasies have a homespun texture, and the most unreal of them are brought down to earth, if only by the crudeness of their execution. Today's spell-casters have more elaborate tools at their disposal for imparting a magical aura to the every more efficient packaging. The success story of the media has culminated in a kind of computerized aesthetics not programmed for loose ends, in which considerations like corporate image and demographics are part of every image. When the bright lights and synthesized soundtracks of today's conglomerate marketing merge into a single vast blur, it is comforting to rest a while in the clear lines of the ramshackle porch on the cover of Erskine Caldwell's *Journeyman*, or to sit with Studs Lonigan in the park on a warm summer night. In retrospect, it is hard to believe such simplicity once sold books (65).

**Scope**

This collection consists of 220 paperbacks, published between 1929 and 1978. They represent 19 publishing houses, most notably Pocket Books. The cover art represents the work of a score of anonymous illustrators. The heft, feel, smell, and aura of the books embodies the iconic place these everyday objects have in libraries and people's lives.

**Provenance**

Like many of plots featured in these books, where they came from is a mystery.

**Descriptions of Collections**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>			
Rinehart, Mary Roberts	The Bat	Dell Publishing Co.	1929
Chase, Stewart	Prosperity: Fact or Myth	Charles Boni Paper Books	1929
Strong, L. A. G.	Dewer Rides	Charles Boni Paper Books	1929
Bell, Margaret	Margaret Fuller	Paper Books	1930
Ford, Leslie	The Simple Way of Poison	Holt, Rinehart & Winston	1938
Carr, John Dickson	To Wake the Dead	Dell Publishing Co.	1938
Wentworth, Patricia	Rolling Stone	Popular Library	1940
Stout, Rex	Where There's a Will	Avon Books	1940
Woollcott, Alexander	While Rome Burns	Pocket Books	1941
Stout, Rex	Broken Vase	Dell Publishing Co.	1941

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Date</b>
Eberholt, Mignon, G.	With This Ring	Dell Publishing Co.	1941
Runyan, Damon	The Best of Damon Runyan	Pocket Books	1941
Christie, Agatha	An Overdose of Death	Dell Publishing Co.	1941
Polsky, Thomas	Curtains for the Copper	Dell Publishing Co.	1941
Stern, Philip Van Doren	The Pocket Reader	Pocket Books	1941
Struther, Ian	Mrs. Miniver	Pocket Books	1942
Poe, Edgar Allan	Tales & Poems of Mystery and Imagination	Pocket Books	1942
Ford, Leslie	Murder With Southern Hospitality	Popular Library	1942
Christie, Agatha	Peril at End House	Pocket Books	1942
Queen, Ellery	The Four of Hearts	Pocket Books	1942
Ford, Leslie	Murder in the O. P. M.	Popular Library	1942
Smith, Thorne	Topper Takes a Trip	Pocket Books	1943
Armstrong, Charlotte	The Case of the Weird Sisters	Ace Books	1943
Buchan, John	Green-Mantle	Pocket Books	1943
Nordhoff, Charles	The Hurricane	Pocket Books	1943
Oppenheim, E. Phillips	The Great Impersonation	Pocket Books	1943
Busch, Niven	Duel in the Sun	Popular Library	1944
Hart, Francis Noyes	The Belamy Trial	Pocket Books	1945
<b>BOX 2</b>			
Steeves, Harrison R.	Good Night Sheriff	Military Service Pub. Co.	1945
Christie, Agatha	And Then There Were None	Pocket Books	1945
Rinehart, Mary Roberts	The Yellow Room	Dell Publishing Co.	1945
Frome, David	Mr. Pinkerton and the Old Angel	Popular Library	1945
St. Exupery, Antoine de	Night Flight	Penguin Books	1945
Stewart, George R.	Storm	Penguin Books	1945
Crow, Carl	400 Million Customers	Pocket Books	1945
Coxe, George Harmon	Murder With Pictures	Dell Publishing Co.	1946
Various Authors	Avon Ghost Reader	Avon Book Co.	1946
Anderson, Sherwood	Winesburg, Ohio	Penguin Books	1946
Marsh, Ngaio	Color Scheme	Pocket Books	1946
Rogers, Joel Townsley	The Red Right Hand	Pocket Books	1946
Lawrence, Hilda	Blood Upon the Snow	Pocket Books	1946
Louys, Pierre	Aphrodite: A Great Pagan Love Story	Avon Books	1946
Ford, Leslie	The Town Cried Murder	Bantam Books	1946
Daly, Elizabeth	Evidence of Things Seen	Bantam Books	1946
Garnett, David	Lady Into Fox & A Man In the Zoo	Penguin Books	1946
Freeman, R. Austin	The Adventures of Dr. Thorndyke	Popular Library	1947
Lindsay, Norman	The Cautious Amorist	Bantam Books	1947
Lewisohn, Ludwig	The Tyranny of Sex (The Case of Mr. Crump)	Penguin Books	1947
Lawrence, Hilda	The Deadly Pavilion	Pocket Books	1947
Lawrence, Hilda	A Time to Die	Pocket Books	1947
Marshall, Edson	Yankee Pasha	Dell Publishing Co.	1947
Louys, Pierre	Woman and the Puppet	Avon Books	1947
Grey, Zane	The Last Trail	Pocket Books	1948
Louys, Pierre	Psyche	Avon Book Co.	1948
Caldwell, Erskine	God's Little Acre	Penguin Books	1948
Caldwell, Erskine	Tragic Ground	Penguin Books	1948
Lewis, Hilda	The Case of the Little Doctor	Permabooks	1949
Maugham, W. Somerset	The Painted Veil	Pocket Books	1949

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Date</b>
Gellhorn, Martha	The Wine of Astonishment	Bantam Books	1949
<b>BOX 3</b>			
Marsh, Ngaio	Died in the Wool	Pocket Books	1949
Bradley, David	No Place to Hide	Bantam Books	1949
Van Dine, S. S.	The Dragon Murder Case	Bantam Books	1949
Weston, Christine	The Dark Wood	Bantam Books	1949
Kane, Frank	Green Light for Death	Readers-Choice Library	1950
Taylor, Rosemary	Come Clean, My Love	Bantam Books	1950
Tey, Josephine	The Franchise Affair	Pocket Books	1950
Garve, Andrew	No Tears for Hilda	Dell Publishing Co.	1950
Boyd, James	Long Hunt	Bantam Books	1950
Gilbert, Anthony	The Innocent Bottle	Bantam Books	1950
Christie, Agatha	Crooked House	Pocket Books	1950
Coxe, George Harmon	The Lady is Afraid	Dell Publishing Co.	1950
Worthington, Marjorie	The Enchanted Heart	Bantam Books	1950
Dickson, Carter	Night at the Mocking Widow	Dell Publishing Co.	1950
Denker, Henry	I'll Be Right Home, Ma	Popular Library	1951
Reilly, Helen	Lament for the Bride	Dell Publishing Co.	1951
Hilton, James	We are not Alone	Avon Publishing Co.	1951
Hemingway, Ernest	For Whom the Bell Tolls	Bantam Books	1951
Neilsen, Helen	Dead on the Level	Dell Publishing Co.	1951
Gilbert, Michael	Death Has Deep Roots	Dell Publishing Co.	1951
Norton, Andre	Huon of the Horn	Ace Books	1951
Garve, Andrew	Murder Through the Looking Glass	Dell Publishing Co.	1951
Tey, Josephine	Come and Kill Me	Pocket Books	1951
Sterling, Stewart	Nightmare at Noon	Dell Publishing Co.	1951
Stone, Hampton	The Murder That Wouldn't Stay Solved	Dell Publishing Co.	1951
Maugham, W. Somerset	Catalina	Bantam Books	1951
Various Authors	Avon Bedside Companion	Avon Books	1952
Norton, Andre	Daybreak: 2250 A.D.	Ace Books	1952
Saroyan, William	Rock Wagram	Signet Books	1952
<b>BOX 4</b>			
Reilly, Helen	The Double Man	Dell Publishing Co.	1952
Knight, John	The Story of My Psychoanalysis	Pocket Books	1952
Innes, Michael	Murder is an Art	Avon Publishing Co.	1952
Turney, Catherine	The Other One	Dell Publishing Co.	1952
Faulkner, John	Men Working	Bantam Books	1952
Rinehart, Mary Roberts	Haunted Lady	Dell Publishing Co.	1952
Dickson, Carter	Behind the Crimson Blind	Dell Publishing Co.	1952
Levin, Dan	Mask of Glory	Popular Library	1952
Fitt, Mary	Clues to Christabel	Pan Books, Ltd.	1952
Stone, Hampton	The Corpse That Refused To Stay Dead	Dell Publishing Co.	1952
Neilsen, Helen	Obit Delayed	Dell Publishing Co.	1952
Corle, Edwin	Mojave: A Book of Stories	Pennant Books	1953
Household, Geoffery	A Time to Kill	Pennant Books	1953
Gardner, Erle Stanley	The Case of the Baited Hook	Pocket Books	1953
Warren, Paul	Next Time is for Life	Dell Publishing Co.	1953
Dobie, J. Frank	Coronado's Children	Bantam Books	1953
Brand, Max	Vengeance Trail	Pocket Books	1954

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Date</b>
Flannigan, Roy	The Forest Cavalier	Popular Library	1954
Buck, Pearl S.	The Hidden Flower	Pocket Books	1954
Garue, Andrew	No Mask for Murder	Pan Books	1954
Freeman, R. Austin	The Penrose Mystery	Pan Books, Ltd.	1954
Reilly, Helen	Compartment K	Ace Books	1955
Catalan, Henri	Soeur Angele and the Embarrassed Ladies	Dell Publishing Co.	1955
Stout, Rex	Prisoners Base	Bantam Books	1955
Stout, Rex	Three Men Out	Bantam Books	1955
Powell, Anthony	The Acceptance World	Berkley Publishing Co.	1955
Bowen, Robert O.	Bamboo	Signet	1955
Del Ray, Lester	Nerves	Ballantine Books	1956
Anderson, Robert	Tea and Sympathy	Signet	1956
Baker, Sam Sinclair	Murder—Very Dry	Graphic Publishing Co.	1956
McCloy, Helen	Two-Thirds of a Ghost	Dell Publishing Co.	1956
<b>BOX 5</b>			
Bell, Josephine	Death in Retirement	Ballantine Books	1956
Hare, Cyril	Untimely Death	Avon Books	1957
Quentin, Patrick	A Puzzle For Fools	Dell Publishing Co.	1957
Powell, Anthony	At Lady Molly's	Berkley Publishing Co.	1957
Armstrong, Charlotte	A Dream of Poison	Fawcett World Library	1957
Stout, Rex	Three Witnesses	Bantam Books	1957
Heinlein, Robert A.	Citizen of the Galaxy	Ace Books	1957
Tey, Josephine	The Man in the Queue	Berkley Publishing Co.	1957
Coxe, George Harmon	Never Bet Your Life	Dell Publishing Co.	1957
Rinehart, Mary Roberts	The Circular Staircase	Dell Publishing Co.	1957
Kantor MacKinlay	Don't Touch Me	Popular Library	1958
Marsh, Ngaio	Singing in the Shrouds	Berkley Publishing Co.	1958
Stout, Rex	The Mountain Cat Murders	Dell Publishing Co.	1958
Stout, Rex	Three For the Chair: A Nero Wolfe Threesome	Bantam Books	1958
Lee, C. Y.	The Flower Drum Song	Dell Publishing Co.	1958
Stout, Rex	Might As Well Be Dead	Bantam Books	1958
Stout, Rex	The Silent Speaker	Bantam Books	1958
Blake, Nicholas	The Beast Must Die	Dell Publishing Co.	1958
Gill, Brendan	The Day the Money Stopped	Pocket Books	1958
Quentin, Patrick	The Man With Two Wives	Dell Publishing Co.	1959
Sagan, Françoise	Those Without Shadows	Dell Publishing Co.	1959
Motley, Willard	Let No Man Write My Epitaph	Signet Books	1959
Scherf, Margaret	Never Turn Your Back	Popular Library	1959
Bell, Josephine	Easy Prey	Ballantine Books	1959
Olesker, Harry	Now, Will You Try For Murder?	Dell Publishing Co.	1959
Wallach, Ira	Muscle Beach	Dell Publishing Co.	1959
Stout, Rex	If Death Ever Slept: A Nero Wolfe Novel	Bantam Books	1959
Harris, Mark	Something About a Soldier	Signet	1959
Ballard, Todhunter	Showdown	Popular Library	1959
Rinehart, Mary Roberts	The Confession and Sight Unseen	Dell Publishing Co.	1959
Milne, A. A.	The Red House Mystery	Dell Publishing Co.	1959
Day, Clarence	Life With Father	Pocket Books	1959
Cross, James	The Dark Road	Crest Books	1960
Marric, J. J.	Gideon's Staff	Berkley Publishing Co.	1960

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>BOX 6</b>			
Powell, Anthony	Casanova's Chinese Restaurant	Berkley Publishing Co.	1960
Stout, Rex	Champagne for One	Bantam Books	1960
Rinehart, Mary Rose	The Case of Jennie Brice	Dell Publishing Co.	1960
Snow, C. P.	The Search	Signet	1960
Casanova, Jacques	The Many Loves of Casanova, Vol. 1	Halloway House	1961
Casanova, Jacques	The Many Loves of Casanova, Vol. 2	Halloway House	1961
Marsh, Ngaio	Final Curtain	Berkley Publishing Co.	1961
Leggett, John	Wilder Stone	Dell Publishing Co.	1961
Sagan, Françoise	Aimez-vous Brahms	Bantam Books	1961
Buck, Pearl S.	Portrait of a Marriage	Pocket Books	1961
Potts, Jean	Go, Lovely Rose	Berkley Publishing Co.	1961
Marric, J. J.	Gideon's Risk	Berkley Publishing Co.	1961
Fair, A. A.	Some Slips Don't Show	Pocket Books	1961
Silone, Ignazio	Fontamara	Dell Publishing Co.	1961
Gary, Romain	A European Education	Pocket Books	1961
Frome, David	Mr. Pinkerton Goes to Scotland Yard	Popular Library	1962
Powell, Anthony	The Kindly Ones	Berkley Publishing Co.	1962
Reilly, Helen	The Day She Died	Ace Books	1962
Godden, Rumer	China Court	Dell Publishing Co.	1962
Friedman, Bruce Jay	Stern	Signet	1962
Stout, Rex	Too Many Clients: A Nero Wolfe Mystery	Bantam Books	1962
Hely, Elizabeth	I'll Be Judge, I'll Be Jury	Dell Publishing Co.	1962
Symons, Julian	The Narrowing Circle	Fontana Books	1962
Queen, Ellery	Death Spins the Platter	Pocket Books	1962
Ethan, John B.	Murder on Wall St.	Pocket Books	1962
Potts, Jean	Lightning Strikes Twicwe	Dell Publishing Co.	1962
Wells, H. G.	The First Men in the Moon	Ballantine Books	1963
Ford, Leslie	The Woman in Black	Popular Library	1963
Williams, Henry	A New Kind of Love	Dell Publishing Co.	1963
Garve, Andrew	The Ashes of Loda	Harper & Row	1963
Marric, J. J.	Gideon's Ride	Berkley Publishing Co.	1963
<b>BOX 7</b>			
Gardner, Erle Stanley	The Case of the Bigamous Spouse	Pocket Books	1963
Tey, Josephine	Miss Pym Disposes	Dell Publishing Co.	1964
Wentworth, Patricia	Poison in the Pen	Pyramid Books	1964
MacDonald, Philip	Death & Chicanery	Popular Library	1964
Gilbert, Anthony	After the Verdict	Pyramid Books	1964
Canning, Victor	Burden of Proof	Berkley Publishing Co.	1964
Tey, Josephine	Brat Farrar	Dell Publishing Co.	1964
Fair, A. A.	Fish Or Cut Bait	Pocket Books	1964
Christie, Agatha	The Mirror Crack'd	Pocket Books	1964
Lorac, E. C. R.	The Last Escape	Popular Library	1964
Fleming, Joan	In The Red	Lancer Books	1964
Tey, Josephine	A Shilling for Candles	Dell Publishing Co.	1964
Reilly, Helen	All Concern Notified	McFadden-Bartell	1964
Gilbert, Anthony	And Death Came Too	Pyramid Books	1964
Rinehart, Mary Roberts	The Great Mistake	Dell Publishing Co.	1964
Hunter, Evan	Happy New Year, Herbie & Other Stories	Pocket Books	1964

Author	Title	Publisher	Date
Derleth, August	Mr. George and Other Odd Persons	Belmont Books	1964
Aldiss, Brian	Starswarm	Signet Books	1964
Derleth, August	Mr. George and Other Odd Person	Belmont Book	1964
Gilbert, Anthony	And Death Came Too	Pyramid Books	1964
Merrill, James	The Diablos Notebook	Popular Library	1965
Wentworth, Patricia	The Silent Pool	Pyramid Books	1965
Stewart, Mary	Thunder on the Right	Crest Books	1965
Tey, Josephine	The Singing Sands	Dell Publishing Co.	1965
Southern, Terry	Candy	Putnam & Sons	1965
Jaspriot, Sebastien	The 10:30 From Marseille	Pocket Books	1965
Rinehart, Mary Roberts	Lost Ecstasy	Dell Publishing Co.	1966
Kantor, MacKinlay	Follow Me, Boys	World Publishing Co.	1966
Marric, J. J.	Gideon's Vote	Berkley Publishing Co.	1966
Eden, Dorothy	Never Call It Loving	Fawcett Publications	1966
Wentworth, Patricia	The Arlington Inheritance	Pyramid Books	1966
Wentworth, Patricia	She Came Back	Pyramid Books	1966
<b>BOX 8</b>			
Queen, Ellery	And On the Eighth Day	Pocket Books	1966
Fair, A. A.	Bedrooms Have Windows	Dell Publishing Co.	1966
Reilly, Helen	Mr. Smith's Hat	McFadden-Bartell	1968
Margoff, Robert	The E. S. P. Worm	Paperback Library	1970
Laing, R. D.	Knots	Vintage Books	1972
Anthony, Piers	Chaining the Lady	Avon Books	1978

## Selected Readings

- Bonn, Thomas. *Undercover: An Illustrated History of Mass Market Paperbacks*. New York: Penguin Books, 1983. Print.
- Davis, Kenneth. *Two Bit Culture: The Paperbacks of America*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1984. Print.
- Joicey, Nicholas. "A Paperback Guide to Progress: Penguin Books 1935-1951." *Twentieth Century British History*. 4(1) 1993. 25-56. Print
- Mercer, Ben. "The Paperback Revolution: Mass-Circulation Books and Cultural Origins of 1968 in Western Europe." *Journal of the History of Ideas*. 72(4) October 2011. 613-636. Print.
- O'Brien Geoffrey. *Hardboiled America: The Lurid Years of Paperbacks*. New York: Von Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1981. Print.
- Reginald, R. *Cumulative Paperback Index, 1939-1959*. Rockville MD: Borgo Press, 2009. Print.
- Stryker, Susan. *Queer Pulp: Perverted Passions from the Golden Age of the Paperback*. New York: Chronicle Books, 2001. Print.
- Updike, John. "Deceptively Conceptual: Books and Their Covers." *The New Yorker*. Conde Nast. 17 Oct. 2005. Web. 21 March 2019.