On the Scent
A History of “The King of the Foxes”
Autograph Manuscript
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1897–1898: A Hunting Morning

Two indisputable facts: First, Arthur Conan Doyle published the short story “The King of the Foxes” in the July 1898 issue of The Windsor Magazine. Second, today, his original autograph manuscript resides in the Dartmouth College Library.

Bookplates and notations provide some clues about the journey in between, but the complete provenance of this manuscript remains elusive. Nevertheless, enough is known to sketch an approximate timeline from its writing by Conan Doyle to its arrival at Dartmouth, as well as a brief biography of several holders along the way.

The last page of the undated manuscript includes the penciled notation “Undershaw / Hindhead” beneath the signature “A. Conan Doyle,” in what appears to be Conan Doyle’s own hand. This sets the earliest possible date of completion as mid-October 1897, when he moved his family to the newly-built estate. Conan Doyle had arranged Undershaw’s construction for his first wife Louise (nicknamed Touie), hoping that the higher elevation and fresh country air of Surrey would improve her fragile health. Physicians had diagnosed Touie with a terminal case of “galloping consumption” (tuberculosis) in August 1893, suggesting at the time that she had only months to live.

“I have said little, during these years spent in the quest of health, concerning my literary production,” Conan Doyle wrote in his 1924 autobiography about life at Undershaw. He did not elaborate here about “The King of the Foxes,” although he did highlight writing “a considerable number of short tales during those years.” In December 1897, Conan Doyle penned a letter to his mother Mary, declaring: “I want now to write some short stories to raise the wind. Extras of different kinds in connection with the house run to about £2000, which I must pay off.”

“The King of the Foxes” was likely inspired by Conan Doyle’s own participation in a fox hunt on December 18, 1897. “A hunting morning,” he wrote in a Christmas greeting to Mary, “and the meet a long 8 miles off … . All seems to be going well here. I have just finished a 2000 word story for the ‘Star’, which will be a help, and as to verses I pour out hunting songs & ballads. Some of them will be heard hereafter.” His diary, now housed in the British Library, contains an entry just a few weeks later: “13–16 Jan 1898 – Wrote

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2. Arthur Conan Doyle, “The King of the Foxes” (autograph manuscript), Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Collection (MS–93), Box 1.
5. Booth, Doctor and the Detective, 184.
7. Ibid., 145.
``The King of the Foxes.''' The quick turnaround was typical for Conan Doyle’s output in the first half of 1898; he spent much of the spring writing what would later comprise his collection of *Round the Fire Stories*. The copyright for the 13-page “Foxes” manuscript was registered in London on June 11, 1898.

Biographers have suggested that Conan Doyle’s own foray into fox-hunting was motivated by his growing infatuation with Jean Leckie, an avid equestrienne whom he had met earlier in 1897. Throughout their lengthy courtship, Conan Doyle tried on several of Jean’s personal interests for size, including fox-hunting and an ill-fated detour into learning the banjo. “To hunt and to play a musical instrument would 2 years ago have been picked out as the two things in the world that I was least likely to do,” he mused to his mother in the spring of 1898. Conan Doyle would later criticize the concept of recreational hunting in his 1924 memoir, but he approved of fox-hunting, which he placed in a different category:

If I have alienated half my readers by my critical attitude to the Turf, I shall probably offend the other half by stating that I cannot persuade myself that we are justified in taking life as a pleasure. To shoot for the pot must be right, since man must feed, and to kill creatures which live upon others (the hunting of foxes, for example) must also be right, since to slay one is to save many; but the rearing of birds in order to kill them, and the shooting of such sensitive and inoffensive animals as hares and deer, cannot, I think, be justified. I must admit that I shot a good deal before I came to this conclusion.

Whatever his successes and failures may have been while riding to hounds or playing the banjo, his affections for Jean Leckie never waned: she would become Conan Doyle’s second wife in September 1907, 14 months after Touie’s death.

1923-1925: To Market

The first sale of the “Foxes” manuscript occurred in New York on January 31, 1923, at the American Art Association’s galleries at 30 East Fifty-Seventh Street. By this point, Doyle was deeply immersed in the spiritualism that would occupy the remainder of his life: hosting séances with Jean, writing and lecturing about the existence of psychic powers, and defending the veracity of the notorious Cottingley fairy photographs. Doyle’s keen interest in the paranormal damaged his reputation, making him the subject of scornful press reviews and even a popular joke “declaring him to be the first member of the audience to clap his hands on request to revive Tinkerbell” at performances of *Peter Pan*.

This commitment to spiritualism dented Conan Doyle’s finances, in addition to his public image. After more than a decade as a rental property following his marriage to Jean Leckie and the couple’s subsequent

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15. Arthur Conan Doyle to Mary Doyle, late March or early April 1898, in *Letters*, 399.
move to their Windlesham estate, Undershaw went on the auction block in late 1920. It sold in May 1921, for £4,000. The final sale price was less than the £6,000 that Conan Doyle had estimated as his cost for "the whole show lock stock & barrel" back in October 1897, and well below the £9,000–£10,000 value that he had originally anticipated "it will be worth in very few years, if not now."25

It was in this era that Conan Doyle’s autograph manuscripts began to enter the market. He arranged for their binding at Spealls, a London stationery and design shop owned and operated by Lady Victoria Sackville, the mother of author Vita Sackville-West.24 In the top left corner of the manuscript’s pastedown, a faint stamp of "SPEALLS 61 SOUTH AUDLEY STREET W" can still be seen. Future sales appeared to be on the author’s mind: "I am having mine bound in vellum by Spealls," he wrote in a December 1913 letter, "so as to be ready for the capricious millionaire whom we all hope for and never see."25

Conan Doyle’s earliest autograph manuscript auctions had benefited a charitable cause: "The Adventure of the Empty House," which Doyle donated to the Red Cross Sale efforts during World War I, sold at Christie’s in April 1916.26 He gave several more autograph manuscripts to the Red Cross Sale in 1918.27 A few years later, Conan Doyle began gradually selling off the rest of his autograph manuscripts. In January 1922, he auctioned six Sherlock Holmes short story manuscripts in New York: "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax," "The Adventure of the Devil’s Foot," "The Adventure of the Red Circle," "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist," "The Adventure of the Priory School," and "The Adventure of the Second Stain." The auction catalogue described these items as “Original Manuscript by, and the Property of, SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, the Celebrated Novelist, sold through the agency of the PAGENT [sic] LITERARY AGENCY of New York City.”28

The January 1923 auction at the American Art Galleries, similarly consigned via the Paget Literary Agency, contained “more than twenty” of Conan Doyle’s bound autograph manuscripts.29 "The King of the Foxes" was the sixth of 25 manuscripts on offer during the afternoon session of Wednesday, January 31, listed with this catalogue description:


Other Conan Doyle autograph manuscripts at this sale included the complete novel-length drafts of *Micah Clarke*, *The Refugees*, and *Rodney Stone*; the Sherlock Holmes stories “The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter” and “The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton”; and later works such as “An Iconoclast” and “The Fall of Lord Barrymore.” In its sale preview, the *Times* described the career-spanning “The King of the Foxes” next appeared in a January 1925 sale at London’s Hodgson & Co., bundled with the autograph manuscripts of two other Conan Doyle stories from the January 1923 auction — “An Iconoclast” and “The Horror of the Heights.” Other Conan Doyle autograph manuscripts in this sale included the novel *Sir Nigel* and a bundle of three Sherlock Holmes stories. None of those manuscripts were mentioned in the auction newspaper advertisements, which primarily highlighted the sale’s 18th-century, fine arts, and law book offerings.39

Many of the rare books at the January 1925 auction were drawn from the library of Col. G.B. Lempriere at Pelham in Hampshire, including first editions of Fanny Burney, Evelina[,] Lamb, Dickens, Thackeray, and others, and an interesting presentation copy of Coleridge’s “The Friend,” with MS notes by the author.40 George Beresford Lempriere (1858-1943) came from a storied family of seigneurs and military officers; Conan Doyle’s World War I chronicle *The British Campaign in France and Flanders* even referenced the battlefield death of his younger brother, Col. Henry Anderson Lempriere of the Dragoon Guards.41 Other possible owners of the “Foxes” manuscript whose treasures were also auctioned at this sale included several lawyers: the late A.C. Crosse, Esq., of St. Leonard’s-on-Sea;42 the late G.W. Tallents, Esq. and G. Baldwin Hamilton, Esq.; and the retiring H. McN. Humphry, Esq., of Lincoln’s Inn.43

Of the Conan Doyle manuscripts for sale at Hodgsons, the bundle of Sherlock stories unsurprisingly commanded the highest price (£66), while the bundle containing “Foxes” garnered £25 from the London bookseller Maggs Bros. The King of the Foxes lingered in Maggs’s shop at 34 & 35 Conduit Street for some time, appearing in catalogues as late as Christmas 1928 for £18. 18s. (“An Iconoclast” likewise remained in stock from the same auction bundle for several years, offered for £14. 14s. “The Horror of the Heights” seems to have resold quickly, initially listed in a 1925 catalogue for £21 and then disappearing from the pages containing its former bundle companions by 1926.

Just a few months after the “Foxes” manuscript was put up for resale in 1925, Conan Doyle and Jean opened The Psychic Bookshop in central London. This combination bookstore, library, publishing house, and museum was dedicated to advancing the spiritualist movement. Conan Doyle continued to invest heavily in spiritualism; one biographer estimated that he spent a substantial portion of his fortune on the quest, “reckoned to be in the region of £250,000 at the time.” Despite never turning a profit, The Psychic Bookshop continued operations for several years, closing shortly after Conan Doyle’s 1930 death from a heart attack.


47. See Booth, Doctor and the Detective, 332; Stashower, Teller of Tales, 399.
48. Booth, Doctor and the Detective, 332. This same figure is reported in Carr, Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 278. It is unclear whether Carr’s £250,000 estimate was Conan Doyle’s spending at the time, or if the figure was already adjusted for inflation in the 1949 biography. Either way, the amount would equal multimillions today.
1945: The Hogan Sale

The “Foxes” manuscript next resurfaced in New York, as part of the massive auction of collector Frank J. Hogan’s estate at the Parke-Bernet Galleries.50 Created by former partners at the American Art Association, Parke-Bernet was now housed in the same East Fifty-Seventh Street location where “Foxes” first sold in 1923.51 A copy of the description has been cut out from the auction catalogue and pasted into the manuscript’s front matter:


The autograph manuscript of Doyle’s short story “The King of the Foxes”, written in ink, with a number of autograph corrections and interlineations. The author himself preserved the manuscript by having it neatly bound in vellum, supplying the title page in his own handwriting and also affixing the title and his name on the cover.52

Frank J. Hogan was the legendary attorney who founded powerhouse law firm Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells). His distinguished career sprouted from hardscrabble roots. Born on January 12, 1877 in Brooklyn to Irish immigrants, young Francis lost his father to tuberculosis by age five, and was the only one of the five children in his family to survive to adulthood.53 Due to his own ill health, by age seven Hogan was sent to live with an aunt in South Carolina. He dropped out of school by age twelve to work in the stockroom of a store, where he developed his lifelong love of reading outside of a formal classroom. Various clerk positions soon led to progressively more responsible civilian postings in the War Department during

51. Norton, 100 Years of Collecting in America, 18.
52. Parke-Bernet Galleries, The Frank J. Hogan Library, Part Two, 76.
the Spanish-American War.54 Hogan married Mary Cecile Adair in Savannah, Georgia, on Valentine’s Day 1899.55 After moving to Washington, DC with his new wife and his mother, Hogan began his legal studies in Georgetown’s night program, graduating in 1902 at the top of his class.56

He began his own law practice in 1904, which future partner Nelson T. Hartson joined in 1925.57 Hogan built his legal reputation on successfully defending such high-profile clients as oil magnate Edward Doheny in the Teapot Dome scandal (for which he was reportedly paid $1,000,000) and philanthropist Andrew Mellon in his tax fraud trial.58 Newsweek once declared, “many a Goliath of industry or finance has successfully hidden from Federal legal assaults behind Hogan’s 5-foot form.”59 Capping his distinguished career as a trial lawyer, Hogan also served as President of the American Bar Association from 1938 to 1939.60

It is unclear how and when the “Foxes” manuscript came into Hogan’s possession. He may have purchased it directly from Maggs Bros. (who acquired it at the 1925 Hodgsons auction), or it may have passed through other hands before it reached his. Hogan did not begin his own book-collecting until 1931, when he purchased a copy of Blackstone’s Commentaries.61 His personal library soon became as remarkable as his legal work, with Newsweek writing in 1936, “Frank J. Hogan, Washington’s best-known trial lawyer, collects rare books, first editions, and the scalps of government attorneys.”62 He amassed his collection quickly, thanks to the rock-bottom prices of the Depression era.63

Arthur Conan Doyle was never a focus of Hogan’s collection, although he once expressed an interest in collecting Thomas Hardy (a contemporary of Conan Doyle) to the bibliographer at Philadelphia’s Rosenbach Company. Appalled, she informed him “that I could not understand why anyone should want to collect Thomas Hardy” and steered him toward their Elizabethan literature instead.64 A 1939 examination of Hogan’s library in The Calaphon did not mention Conan Doyle, although it provided a lengthy description of more than a dozen other “English moderns” (Hardy included) in his collection.65

One might reasonably suspect that Hogan acquired “Foxes” through the Rosenbach Company, from whom he purchased regularly. The company and its co-founder, Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach, maintained a strong presence in the London rare book market, including the 1933 auction at Sotheby’s where a company buyer

55. Chatham County (Georgia) Marriage License, issued February 14, 1899.
64. E. Millicent Sowerby, Rare People and Rare Books (London: Constable, 1967), 207. Hogan then surprised her by purchasing thousands of dollars’ worth of books that day, something that no one else had done at the Rosenbach for some time, “[j]owing to the Depression.” Sowerby, Rare People and Rare Books, 208.
procured a pristine First Folio of Shakespeare for Hogan's collection.66 Rosenbach had dealings with virtually every bookseller in London, either by direct purchase or through consignment arrangements.67 He was also no stranger to Maggs Bros.: In 1924, Rosenbach famously purchased a collection of Napoleonic relics that Maggs had obtained from the family of Abbé Vignali, the priest who conducted Bonaparte's last rites. The collection included, among clothes and other personal effects, the emperor's penis (allegedly severed postmortem by Vignali). Rosenbach delighted in displaying his acquisition for the next quarter century, with exhibition catalogues and newspapers politely describing the artifact as a “mummified tendon.”68

Beyond his known dealings with Maggs Bros., Rosenbach traded in Conan Doyle rarities, once purchasing the author's crime reference library for himself and enthusing to the press about the handwritten marginalia found within.69 But there is no mention of the manuscript in private correspondence between Hogan and Rosenbach, nor a sale record for “Foxes” in the Rosenbach archives.70 Of course, Hogan also patronized other booksellers (including Los Angeles’s Maxwell Hunley and Jake Zeitlin), any one of whom could have been the supplier.71

Considering the relative dearth of Conan Doyle materials in Hogan's collection, it is also possible that the "Foxes" manuscript was a gift. However and whenever it came into Hogan's hands, he added it to his large library, pasting a slightly-askew bookplate in the center of the inside cover: "Ex Libris Frank J. Hogan" in script, encircled by the quotation "THE TRUE UNIVERSITY OF THESE DAYS IS A COLLECTION OF BOOKS. – CARLYLE."

During his year of service as ABA president, Hogan was diagnosed with the early stages of Parkinson's disease. As his health deteriorated in the late 1930s, his book buying slowed, and then stopped by 1942. Still, his dozen years of voracious collecting "brought together on the top floor of his Washington home in Sheridan Circle one of the world's finest private collections of priceless books. He knew and loved their contents." Hogan died on May 15, 1944, after a long illness. He was survived by his widow, their daughter, and three grandchildren. Many expected Hogan to donate the collection to an institution, as he had with a 1941 gift to the Library of Congress containing 86 rare children's books from 1775-1850. Hogan had apparently once considered leaving his extensive library to Georgetown University; he changed his mind after a disappointing trip with a friend to view some manuscripts there, when a staff member presented them with dusty volumes from the basement after an hour of searching. Instead, Hogan's will directed that his personal library be sold at public auction, and explained his reasoning:

I had thought of bequeathing my valuable books and collection of autographs and literary manuscript material, including my collection of first and rare editions of English and American literature, to some institution to be permanently kept together as a collection, but this idea I have abandoned in favor of a plan that will accomplish their dispersion among those coming after me, who will experience, as I have felt, a profound happiness and satisfaction in possessing these precious monuments of human thought and progress. There is something sacred in the spiritual and intimate companionship of a book, and I do not deem it fitting that these friends of many happy hours should repose in unloved and soulless captivity. Rather, I would send them out into the world again to be the intimates of others whose loving hands and understanding hearts will fill the place left vacant by my passing.

The sale was ordered by the executors of Hogan's estate, the Riggs National Bank, which he had represented early in his career when the federal government sought to indict several of its officers for perjury in a securities-trading dispute. The size of Hogan's collection required the auction to be held in multiple parts, from January 1945 to April 1946. "The King of the

72. Cohen, Frank Hogan Remembered, 95.
73. Basbanes, A Gentle Madness, 220; Sowerby, Rare People and Rare Books, 219-20.
75. Ibid., 393.
76. "Frank J. Hogan, 67, Ex-Head of U.S. Bar," 19. The Hogans' only child, Dorothy, married John W. Guider in 1923, two years before he joined Hogan & Hartson. Two decades later, John and Dorothy Guider's daughter, Dorothy Adair Guider, would marry a bright-futured young associate at the firm named Edward Bennett Williams. "Although the firm never had a nepotism policy," recalled one former partner, "there are the only family alliances in Hogan & Hartson history." Cohen, Frank Hogan Remembered, 39.
77. "Congress Library Gets Rare Primers," New York Times (January 6, 1941), 34.
Foxes” was listed in Part II (April 24-25, 1945), which focused on Hogan’s collection of 18th- and 19th-century English literature. The “Foxes” manuscript sold for $80, a respectable but modest sum compared to the auction’s marquee rare editions in Part III. The entire auction grossed $495,726.50, with Hogan’s prized First Folio selling for $50,000 and his copy of the Canterbury Tales for $13,000.

Commentators agreed that World War II depressed the prices for the rarest titles, with one close friend in the business estimating that Hogan’s entire collection sold at a loss of approximately one-third. It was an outcome that Hogan might have found fitting, considering that his own library had been built on Depression-era bargains. His friend acknowledged that Hogan would likely “have cheerfully written off” the losses, knowing that his treasured books had found appreciative new homes.

1952-53: Destination Dartmouth

Perc S. Brown, the eventual Dartmouth donor, most likely bought “The King of the Foxes” at the Hogan sale in April 1945. Brown, an executive at the Nopco Chemical Company, definitely purchased other items at the Hogan auction, including several rare editions from Herman Melville’s library. Like Hogan, Brown was an avid collector of rare books and manuscripts. However, Brown did not share Hogan’s reluctance to donate items to libraries and museums; he presented materials regularly to the library at his sons’ alma mater, as well as to other research libraries and historical societies.

The last bookplate that was added to the manuscript’s inside cover commemorated Brown’s gift:

- Dartmouth College Library
  - Presented by
  - PERC S. BROWN
  - in memory of his Wife
- MARIE BEACH BROWN
  - mother of
  - BRUCE L. BROWN ’41
  - and
  - GORDON S. BROWN ’42
  - Through the Friends of the Dartmouth Library

Born in Bayard, New Mexico in 1895, Perc Summers Brown was educated in Portland, Oregon before serving in the Army’s Third Machine Gun Battalion during World War I. Allie Marie Beach was his high school sweetheart, a rancher’s daughter who was a frequent presence in Portland newspapers’ society pages. The couple married in August 1917 in San Francisco, on a break from Perc’s training at the Presidio. During Perc’s military service, Marie continued her studies at the University of Oregon. She graduated in 1920 and remained an active alumna of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

After Perc’s war service, the young couple settled in the Seattle area, where sons Bruce Langdon Brown and Gordon Summers Brown were born in 1920 and 1921. The Brown family lived frugally in these early years, at one point sharing a three-bedroom house with the patron who funded Perc’s grain brokerage. After his Brown-Jeklin & Co. was acquired by the National Oil Products Corporation (Nopco), Brown moved his family to San Francisco.

In 1936, the family moved again, this time by boat, to the East Coast, relocating to New Jersey after stops...
in Central America, Colombia, and Cuba.96 Closer to the auction houses of New York, and having by now achieved a good measure of success in business, it is likely that Perc Brown first took up book collecting during this period.97 By September 1946, he had joined the California Historical Society, whose quarterly newsletter highlighted their new member's “growing collection of Western Americana.”98

Both of Brown's sons attended Dartmouth, undoubtedly a point of pride for the self-made executive who had himself neither attended college nor finished high school.99 Following their graduation, the Brown brothers served in the Navy during World War II; at the time that his father was likely purchasing “Foxes” and other items at the Hogan sale, younger son Gordon was on a flotilla in the Pacific theater.100

Marie Beach Brown, in whose memory the “Foxes” gift would be made, died of cancer in the late 1940s.101 By the end of 1949, Perc had remarried to Tamara Leuba, a 32-year-old Russian emigrée whom the 54-year-old widower had met on a train.102 Brown returned to California in 1950, in order to direct Nopco's new Western division.103 Although he and his second wife called the Bay Area home for the rest of Perc's life, he maintained close ties with the Dartmouth College Library, gifting them parts of his collection each year for nearly two decades.104 Herbert Faulkner West, the professor who founded Dartmouth's Friends of the Library organization, later described Brown as “the single greatest benefactor to the Library … I think it is fair to say that as long as the college endures, future scholars and students will be indebted to the late Perc S. Brown for his genius as a collector.”105

Shortly before his cross-country move, Brown donated 535 rare items to Dartmouth, a collection that the library described as "unmatched … we have never before received so large a group of books which are singularly so remarkable."106 He supplemented this gift the following year with 39 more books, including unspecified presentation copies of Arthur Conan Doyle.107 The “Foxes” manuscript arrived the year after that, in a donation that included “two autograph manuscripts by Arthur Conan Doyle, a document signed by Lord Dartmouth (1774) … [and] a most handsome and exciting Christmas present in the form of a rare first edition, first issue of Gray's Elegy.”108

Figure 10: Dartmouth College Library bookplate commemorating Perc Brown donation, 1952-53, affixed to the front pastedown of the "Foxes" manuscript.

96. Brown, To No Nameless End, 252.
99. Brown, To No Nameless End, 77.
100. Ibid., 46.
102. Brown, To No Nameless End, 71-72; Petition for Naturalization, No. 100606 (February 24, 1950) (listing Perc and Tamara Brown's date of marriage as December 3, 1949).
Perc S. Brown died on November 14, 1963, following his own battle with cancer. He had retired from Nopco in 1960, but kept busy with the Friends organizations for various libraries, including Dartmouth as well as Berkeley’s Bancroft Library and the Orinda (Contra Costa County) Public Library. Brown was survived by second wife Tamara, as well as his two sons with Marie Beach Brown. After their war service, the Brown brothers both continued their family’s tradition of extensive travels before eventually returning to their hometown. Older brother Bruce, a real estate developer, moved from the Bay Area to Little Rock, Arkansas before re-settling in Seattle in 1990. Younger brother Gordon toured the globe, claiming to have visited every country on Earth but five; he, too, maintained a home in Seattle, where he was a local artist of some repute. Gordon (known to friends and art patrons as “Gordini”) died in July 2010; Bruce passed away in December 2013.

2020: Closing Hunt

Some mysteries remain unsolved along the “Foxes” manuscript’s path to Dartmouth, most significantly the identity of the January 1923 buyer as well as the circumstances of Frank Hogan’s acquisition sometime between the start of his book-collecting in 1931 and the illness that stopped it in 1942. It is clear, though, that the manuscript traversed the Atlantic Ocean more than once in the three decades between its first sale in 1923 and its arrival at Dartmouth in 1952. It passed from its renowned author to a distinguished lawyer and then to a successful business executive, with stops at major auction houses in New York and London along the way.

Just as all of the players in this story have long since passed, most of the places described here are no longer recognizable. Conan Doyle’s Undershaw now houses the Stepping Stones School, a private academy for special-needs children. The luxe East Fifty-Seventh Street auction house in Manhattan, where “Foxes” sold in both 1923 and 1945, was demolished for an office tower after the Parke-Bernet Galleries moved to 980 Madison Avenue in 1949. In January 1966, these Madison Avenue galleries would house an auction featuring some rare books and manuscripts from the estate of Perc S. Brown. Parke-Bernet itself was acquired by Sotheby’s in the 1960s; after several decades as “Sotheby Parke Bernet,” the company rebranded as simply “Sotheby’s” in 1983. London’s Hodgson & Co., whose auction house at 115 Chancery Lane was the site of the 1925 “Foxes” sale, met a similar fate: the company was absorbed by Sotheby’s in 1967, and its former building is now occupied by a cocktail bar and restaurant. Maggs Bros., which purchased “Foxes” at the Hodgson’s auction, moved from its 1925 location on Conduit Street in 1938; within two years, the booksellers’ former building would be destroyed in the Blitz. Hogan’s home on Sheridan Circle in Washington, DC, which housed his impressive library on the top floor, is now the site of the Korean Embassy. Whatever misgivings Hogan may have harbored about sealing his beloved books in an institution, Dartmouth has remained one of the few constants in the history of “The King of the Foxes,” preserving it for nearly seven decades and counting. While the autograph manuscript never commanded high prices at auction, it tells a richer tale for its travels.

116. Norton, 100 Years of Collecting in America, 19.
118. Norton, 100 Years of Collecting in America, 21.
121. Sowerby, Rare People and Rare Books, 211.