Images of Moby-Dick

An exhibition of editions of Herman Melville's great novel of whaling

Department of Special Collections
KENNETH SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY
The University of Kansas
Images of
*Moby-Dick*
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The University of Kansas
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Images of Moby-Dick

Images of Moby-Dick celebrates the publication of Unpainted to the Last: Moby-Dick and Twentieth-Century American Art (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1995), the culmination of many years of study of Melville’s great novel by Elizabeth A. Schultz, professor of English at the University of Kansas.

Herman Melville’s Moby-Dick; or, The Whale, a work which fills the mind’s eye with extraordinarily visual images, was not published in an illustrated edition until over 40 years after it first appeared. It was not until thirty years after this that the first edition with colored illustrations (only the third illustrated edition of any sort) was published. In the 73 years since that first colored edition Moby-Dick has been published in a multiplicity of pictorial forms—nearly seventy illustrated editions printed in English alone—and has engaged the efforts of artists in many fields.

Images of Moby-Dick presents a selection of these illustrated editions, collected by Professor Schultz during her study of Moby-Dick and now generously donated to the Kenneth Spencer Research Library. Professor Schultz’s gift collection, supplemented here by some loans from the private collection of Frederick P. Conboy and a few editions already in the Spencer Library’s collection, provides a view of the surprising variety of interpretation which book illustrators have brought to this great novel.

Simultaneously, the University’s Helen Foresman Spencer Museum of Art is presenting "Unpainted to the Last" Moby-Dick and American Art, 1930-1990, a major exhibition of other visual interpretations of Moby-Dick. The openings of these companion exhibitions begin a series of Moby-Dick events culminating in the "Moby-Dick and American Culture" Symposium on September 30th.
First Appearances

1


The first appearance in print of any part of Moby-Dick, identified in a footnote as "From 'The Whale.' The title of a new work by Mr. Melville, in the press of Harper and Brothers, and now publishing in London by Mr. Bentley."

The text is that of Chapter 54 in the first American edition of Moby-Dick, which was published some weeks later.

Shown by courtesy of the Kansas Collection, Kenneth Spencer Research Library.

2


Tanselle 2.

From the Department of Special Collections, Kenneth Spencer Research Library.
View of a Whale-boat crushed by a Whale
Illustrated Editions of the Full Text

*Moby Dick or The White Whale.* By Herman Melville. Boston: The Page Company Publishers [c1892; Sixth impression, June, 1921]

The four black-and-white illustrations by A. Burnham Shute are from the first illustrated edition of *Moby-Dick,* published in New York by the American Publishers Corporation, 1896, in its "Belgravia Series" of illustrated paperbacks.

The plates from which the text is printed are those of the first edition after Melville’s death (New York: United States Book Co., 1892, edited by Arthur Stedman). The Page Company first used them in 1919; re-printings of these plates were issued as late as 1950.

Tanselle 3e.

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Between the first publication of Shute’s illustrations in 1892 and the Melville revival of the 1920s only one illustrated edition was published (New York: Scribner’s, 1899, with four illustrations by I.W. Taber) and only four new editions altogether.
Images of Moby-Dick

4

Moby Dick or The White Whale by Herman Melville. Illustrated by Mead Schaeffer. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1922.

This is the first edition of Moby-Dick with colored illustrations (twelve paintings by Mead Schaeffer), and only the third illustrated edition. The text is that of the first English edition which was set from American proofs annotated by Melville and then heavily edited by the publisher, Bentley.

Tanselle 8
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

In 1930 an edition of Moby-Dick limited to 1,000 copies was published by the Lakeside Press of Chicago. With its 280 ink drawings by Rockwell Kent, this is the most heavily illustrated edition of Moby-Dick, rivalled in visual impact only by the Arion Press edition of 1979. Re-issued in cheaper editions by Random House, the Garden City Publishing Company, and The Modern Library, Rockwell Kent's illustrations have probably been seen by more readers than any others and to many they remain the archetypal images of Moby-Dick.

5


3 volumes: 1,000 copies printed, originally issued in an aluminum slipcase. Illustrated with 280 ink drawings and title pages hand-engraved on copper plates. This copy is inscribed on the front free endpaper: To Emily Miller by Rockwell Kent.

Tanselle 17.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
**Images of Moby-Dick**

6


The '1st trade' edition, illustrated with 270 ink drawings.
Tanselle 18.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
Two other copies are also shown: one (with book jacket designed by Rockwell Kent) loaned by Frederick P. Conboy, the other (from the Department of Special Collections) the gift of the heirs of Frederick N. Chadsey.

7


Illustrated with 270 ink drawings.
Tanselle 18b.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
Another copy, loaned by Frederick P. Conboy, is also shown.

8


Illustrated with 270 ink drawings. With book jacket "adapted from Rockwell Kent's original design".
Tanselle 18c (first issued 1944).
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

A reprint of the first Boni edition of 1925 in its "Bonibooks" paperback series, no. 8, with 12 woodcuts by Howard Simon, following the stark tradition established by Rockwell Kent.

Tanselle 10 (note).
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.


No. 23 in the "Bonibooks" clothbound series, first reprinted in 1935 with new illustrations by Raymond Bishop, following the style established by Rockwell Kent.

Tanselle 10 (note).
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

In 1943, the Limited Editions Club published an edition of Moby-Dick limited to 1500 copies available to subscribers only. To insure wider availability of the 31 new illustrations by Boardman Robinson, formerly a political cartoonist for populist journals and a WPA muralist, the Club issued simultaneously a less luxurious edition with only 23 of the 31 illustrations under the Heritage Club imprint. A new edition was issued in 1977, again as a luxury edition but with only 23 illustrations, by Easton Press.
11

_Moby Dick; or, The Whale_ by Herman Melville. With an introduction by Clifton Fadiman and illustrations by Boardman Robinson. [New York]: The Limited Editions Club, 1943

2 volumes: limited to 1500 copies designed by Warren Chappell and set in type at the Southworth-Anthoensen Press, Portland, Maine. Issued in full black leather in a marbled paper slipcase.

Illustrated with 31 paintings (some in color) in gouache, ink wash, and oil originally on masonite, gesso, or paper, by Boardman Robinson.

Tanselle 21.

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Another copy (from the Department of Special Collections), the bequest of James H. Stewart, is also shown.

12


Published simultaneously with the Limited Editions Club edition.

Tanselle 21a.

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Another copy (from the Department of Special Collections), the gift of the heirs of Frederick N. Chadsey, is also shown.

A re-impression of the Heritage Press edition, with an added "Publisher's Preface" and a new colored frontispiece by Robert Shore. Issued in full black morocco, gilt, with a whale medallion on the upper board, as one of the Easton Press series "The 101 Greatest Books Ever Written Collector's Edition Bound in Genuine Leather".
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.


The first unabridged edition to provide scholarly annotation and textual discussion, illustrated with historical pictures and diagrams
Tanselle 24.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Moby Dick or The White Whale. By Herman Melville. New York: Grosset & Dunlap [1955]

Tanselle 9d.
Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.
Images of Moby-Dick

16


With cover illustrations by Richard Powers.

Identified on the cover as "Dell Laurel Edition LX105. From the Sunrise Semester Library". Sunrise Semester was "a joint television presentation of WCBS-TV and New York University".

Tanselle 37: 10 printings by end of 1969. Only the first impression of this edition was labeled Sunrise Semester Library.

Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.

17


The Macmillan Classics 30; first printing.

Tanselle 40.

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

18

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.


Illustrated with 25 wood-engravings by Garrick Palmer.
Originally issued in an elaborately tooled full leather binding, this edition, like other limited editions, was re-issued in a less expensive form (bound in half blue morocco with ship tools on its backstrip, as shown here) for the general public. Both issues were printed and bound by Richard Clay (The Chaucer Press, Bungay, Suffolk).
Tanselle 53.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.


Illustrated with 73 ink drawings by Warren Chappell, the dean of American illustrators, a student of Boardman Robinson and the designer of the 1943 edition of Moby-Dick illustrated by Robinson.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

In 1979, Andrew Hoyem of the Arion Press of San Francisco issued an edition of Moby-Dick employing for the first time the text of the definitive Melville edition being issued by the Northwestern University Press and The Newberry Library. Illustrated
with 100 wood engravings by Barry Moser and printed on dampened handmade paper on a hand press between March 1978 and May 1979, this edition was limited to 265 copies. By arrangement with Hoyem, the University of California Press published in 1981 two reduced-size reproductions of this edition and then in 1983 a paperback edition of the smaller of these.

21


Reduced size (13 3/8 x 9") reproduction of the Arion Press edition, illustrated with 100 wood engravings by Barry Moser.
Bound in blue linen and issued in a blue linen slipcase.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

22


Further reduced size (10 3/4 x 7") reproduction of the Arion Press edition.
Bound in blue cloth and issued with an illustrated book jacket.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
23


Still further reduced size (9¾ x 6 3/8") paperbound reproduction of the Arion Press edition.
Its cover illustration is the same as the book jacket of the clothbound edition.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

24


At head of title: Oxford World’s Classics.
Published by Avenel Books under license from Oxford University Press, printed in China. Its book jacket is illustrated by Colin Mier.
This is the text of the first American edition, first published in this form by Oxford University Press in 1920 as No. 225 of its ”The World’s Classics” series (Tanselle 6).
Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.

25


An unabridged edition (despite the name of its publisher) with 11 ink drawings by Joseph Ciardiello.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
Images of Moby-Dick

26


With 12 scratchboard illustrations with watercolor background and a black-and-white frontispiece portrait of Melville by Mark Summers.

The text is from The Northwestern-Newberry Edition, with scholarly appendices.

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Editions for Children

After the 1922 appearance of Schaeffer's realistic and anecdotal illustrations, the perfect adventure story pictures, _Moby-Dick_ was frequently issued in editions aimed at children.

27


"The Father and Son Library" edition is an unabridged text, with six black-and-white illustrations by John D. Whiting. The frontispiece photograph of a father and young son (by Henry Havelock Pierce) makes its target audience clear.

Tanselle 14.

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
USING HIS JAW.
Images of Moby-Dick

Most of the editions intended for children were abridged—the first of these in 1924—or otherwise adapted. The texts of these abridgments for children were often re-issued with illustrations by different artists; they are often undated and may lack identification of the illustrator. They sometimes fail even to mention the name of the author of Moby-Dick.

The "Every Child's Library" edition, a popular abridgment with seven black-and-white illustrations by Alfred Staten Conyers, was first published by the Saalfield Publishing Company of Akron in 1931 and frequently re-issued in different covers with no indication of actual date of publication. The four Saalfield editions in the exhibition all have text from the same setting of type. They are arranged in apparent chronological order according to their appearance.

28

Moby Dick or The whale. By Herman Melville. With illustrations by Alfred Staten Conyers. Akron, Ohio: Saalfield Publishing Company ["Illustrations copyright c1931"].

Series half-title: Every Child's Library.
Bound in red cloth with (on the upper board) an applied colored illustration signed Alfred Conyers.
Tanselle 68.
Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.

29

Moby Dick or The whale. By Herman Melville. With illustrations by Alfred Staten Conyers. Akron, Ohio: Saalfield Publishing Company ["Illustrations copyright c1931"].
Images of Moby-Dick

Bound in plain maroon pebble cloth, with the same illustration as that on the cover of the preceding
used on the book jacket; "Every Child's Library" on the back flap of the book jacket.
Tanselle 68.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

30

_Moby Dick or The whale._ By Herman Melville. With illustrations by Alfred Staten Conyers. Akron, Ohio: Saalfield Publishing Company ["Illustrations copyright
1931"].

Bound in plain blue cloth.
Tanselle 68.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

31

_Moby Dick or The whale._ By Herman Melville. With illustrations by Alfred Staten Conyers. Akron, Ohio: Saalfield Publishing Company ["Illustrations copyright c1931"].

Bound in plain beige cloth, with an unsigned colored illustration on the book jacket and "Saalfield
3018" on its backstrip; "Every Child's Library" on the back flap of the book jacket.
Tanselle 68.
Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.

The Winston Company of Philadelphia first published their abridged edition in 1931 in
their "The Children's Bookshelf" and "The Winston Clear-Type Popular Classics" series,
with eight illustrations by Anton Otto Fischer. In 1949 Winston re-issued the abridged
text, commissioning the production of six new colored paintings and eighty-six
black-and-white drawings by Fischer for this edition. Only two of his illustrations
View of a Whale Ship in the Process of "Cutting in."
from the 1931 edition were re-used. The new preface by Somerset Maugham was illustrated with a black-and-white drawing of Melville by Robert W. Arnold. There was no further mention of "The Children's Bookshelf". In 1953 the Literary Guild brought out an edition of the 1949 Winston abridgment. The text and illustrations which had originally been intended for children were now marketed entirely for adults.

32


With 8 illustrations (four in color) by Anton Otto Fischer.
Tanselle 69.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

33


Dust jacket: "One of The Ten Greatest Novels of the World. Selected by W. Somerset Maugham."
Tanselle 81.

Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy; the Conboy copy is illustrated with 6 colored paintings (5 new for this edition) and 86 small black-and-white drawings by Anton Otto Fischer with an additional black-and-white drawing of Melville by Robert W. Arnold.
Images of Moby-Dick

34

*Moby Dick or The White Whale* written by Herman Melville, illustrated by Anton Otto Fischer, and published by The Literary Guild of America, Inc., in Garden City, New York [c1949]

With eight colored paintings and eighty-six small black-and-white drawings by Anton Otto Fischer.
Tanselle 81a: published 1953.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Two editions of Felix Sutton’s adaptation for children, one with colored illustrations by Jon Nielsen and the other by H.B. Vestal.

35


Tanselle 95.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

36


"Oak Tree Books  Grosset & Dunlap 16300".

cf. Tanselle 97.
Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.
37


A children’s picture book from Brazil, illustrated by Peter Andrews; identified on its cover as number 4 in the series "Classicos Juvenis".
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

38


Number 4520 in the paperback "Illustrated Classic Editions" series.
In this edition of Shirley Bogart’s adaptation, Lynch’s illustrations are in black-and-white; the colored cover illustrations are unsigned.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

39


In the "Great Illustrated Classics" series.
In this edition of Shirley Bogart’s adaptation, Lynch’s illustrations are in black-and-white; the colored cover illustration is by Rick Whipple.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
Images of Moby-Dick

40

_Moby Dick._ By Herman Melville. Adapted by Patricia Daniels. Illustrated by Gary Kelley. Milwaukee: Raintree Publishers [c1982]

Gary Kelley's illustrations are in color.
With a glossary for young children.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

41


"Wishing Well Adventure Classic" series. This edition does not mention Herman Melville. The colored illustrations (by an unidentified artist) are identical to those in the Italian edition described next. Both editions were printed by Hemma, a Belgian firm.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

42


"Collana i classici dell' avventura" series. This edition does not mention Herman Melville. The colored illustrations (by an unidentified artist) are identical to those in the American edition just described. Both editions were printed by Hemma, a Belgian firm.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
43


The "Classics for kids" edition: text adapted by Joanne Fink, colored illustrations by Hieronimus Fromm.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

44


An American edition (copyright by Dami Editore, Milano, and printed in Italy), of an Italian picture book for children; color illustrations by an unidentified illustrator.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

45


Gary Gianni’s illustrations are in color.
In the "Troll Illustrated Classics" series.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
"GIVE IT TO HIM."

James McConnell’s illustrations in black-and-white; colored cover illustrations.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Abridgments for Adults


Pocket Book 612. Colored cover illustration signed Norman Price.
Probably the most widely read abridgment of Moby-Dick is that by Maxwell Geismar—issued and re-issued by Pocket Books in more than 25 impressions.
Tanselle 82.
Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.

Images of Moby-Dick

PL 48. Colored cover illustration signed Norman Price. With an added "Editor's Note" listing the chapters omitted in the abridged text. Tanselle 82 (note). Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.

49

_Moby Dick or The White Whale_ by Herman Melville. London: Thames Publishing Co. [1954]

"Regent Classics." An anonymous abridgment, issued both with illustrations by Glanville (as shown here) and without. Tanselle 91. Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Moby-Dick _and the Movies_

50


51

*The story of Moby Dick the great white whale.* Adapted from the novel by Herman Melville. Illustrated with scenes from "The Sea Beast" a Warner Brothers picture featuring John Barrymore. Racine, Wisconsin: Whitman Publishing Company [c1934]

The "Big Little Books" movie edition, with text adapted by Lloyd E. Smith, illustrated with 75 photographs from the 1926 film.
Tanselle 71.
Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.

52


"Signet Books Double Volume D1229".
Cover illustration from the Warner Bros. film directed by John Huston, starring Gregory Peck.
Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.

53


Tanselle 98.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
Comic-Books

54


Tanselle 74
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

55


A new "Classics Illustrated" version from Gilberton. Over 3,000,000 copies were sold by 1966.

Tanselle 87
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

56

A later "Classics Illustrated" version from Gilberton.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

57


"Classics illustrated, Number 4", a new generation of "Classics Illustrated" comics, the concept of Bill Sienkiewicz.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Alex Nino's comic-book illustrations for Pendulum Press went through a dizzying series of editions, the size first diminishing and then increasing, the illustrations changing from black-and-white to color, and the text being shortened as the size of the page increased.

58


A comic-book (black-and-white) in 8 x 5 3/8" paperback size, with colored cover illustrations; published in the "Now Age Books Illustrated" series.
Page [6]: Adapted by Irwin Shapiro. Illustrated by Alex Nino. A Vincent Fago production.
Tanselle 113: A color poster reproducing the first page was also published.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
Images of Moby-Dick

59


A comic-book (black-and-white) in 7 x 4" size, a reduced size reprint of the Pendulum edition with new color cover illustrations, number C7 in the "Pocket Classics" series.

Page [6]: the same design as in the Pendulum edition but without the text reading "Adapted by Irwin Shapiro. Illustrated by Alex Nino. A Vincent Fago production".

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

60


Tanselle 113a: For this subedition, the pages of the Pendulum Press edition were enlarged to conventional comic-book size and printed in color and the equivalent of seven pages was deleted, with a consequent rearrangement of the individual frames at several points.

With an additional black-and-white frontispiece portrait of Melville by "Bob Larkin '76".

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

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Images of Moby-Dick

Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

62


Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.

Excerpts and Derivatives

Moby-Dick has inspired poems, art, puzzle-books, irreverent jokes, and a recent, much-enjoyed posting on the Internet: "Can anyone tell me where I can find full machine-readable texts of books on the Internet, like Moby-disk?"

63


Loaned by Frederick P. Conboy.

"Walt Disney Moby Duck, No. 19, August, 1975".
The comic-book series *Moby Duck* has no connection with *Moby-Dick* except the name.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.


A narrative puzzle book: "Creative director: Tony Tallarico".
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.


Two sentences from *Moby-Dick*, Chapter 96, "Try-works", illustrated with paintings by Thomas Locker.
Gift of Elizabeth A. Schultz.
NEW BEDFORD FROM A WHALMAN'S POINT OF VIEW.
Professor Schultz’s gift also included a few foreign language editions of *Moby-Dick*, two other Melvilles (the Heritage Press edition of *Omoo* with wood engravings by Reynolds Stone and the Dodd, Mead edition of *Typee* with illustrations by Mead Schaeffer) not shown in the exhibition, and the permission to use information from her new book in this catalogue.

Facts unobservable in the books themselves and much of the wording of this catalogue come from Professor Schultz’s book and from G. Thomas Tanselle’s *A Checklist of Editions of Moby-Dick, 1851-1976*, issued on the occasion of an exhibition at the Newberry Library commemorating the 125th anniversary of its original publication, Chicago: Northwestern University Press and The Newberry Library, 1976. I am grateful to both authors.

The illustration on p. 2 is taken from Henry T. Cheever: *The Whale and his Captors; or, The Whaleman’s Adventures and the Whale’s Biography*, New York, Harper & Brothers, 1850, first published in 1849. All other illustrations are from *Life and Adventure in the South Pacific*, by A Roving Printer, New York, Harper & Brothers, 1861, which re-used many of the blocks from Cheever.