

Wise
TELEPHONE
No. 201.

QUEEN'S HOTEL,
HASTINGS.

19. 4. 21.

My dear Lempster,

Many thanks for
your letter, & also for the two
Conrad volumes & for the
Magazine. What how can I to
thank you for all your repeated
kindness? Merely to say "Thank
you" is not to express the gratitude
I feel. I cannot understand why
the Inheritors has become so scarce.
Here the book cannot be obtained
at all. Myself had a watched copy
with one bound badly broken - too

had a copy for me to touch - but
they sold it for £3.00.0. A fine
copy must certainly be worth £5.5.0.
The specimen you so generously sent
me is quite a good one. Mr. Spoor
wrote me recently that Hill had
"scoured the country" to find one for
him, but without success. Your
"Set of Six" is a perfect mystery. The
copy Mr. Webster & I examined had
the title on paper: of that there could
be no possible doubt or question. And
yet you think yours, also a cancel, is
genuine. I wonder if after all the binders
did cancel the title of a copy or two too
already in cloth! Very fortunately it is a
matter of small moment, as the First Issue
is the form in which the work will always
be desired. Ever Faithfully,
T. J. Wise



Paul Temperley, Esq.
14205, Detroit Avenue
Lakewood

Ohio

U.S.A.



QUEEN'S HOTEL,
HASTINGS.

THOMAS J. WISE, A. L. S., 19 April 1921,
to Paul Lemperly.

[printed headings, the first diagonal]

TELEPHONE

No. 201.

QUEEN'S HOTEL,
HASTINGS.

19. 4. 21.

My dear Lemperly,

Many thanks for your letters, & also for the two Conrad volumes for the Magazine. But how am I to thank you for all your repeated kindness? Merely to say "Thank you" is not to express the gratitude I feel. I cannot understand why the *Inheritors* has become so scarce.

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Transcription from:

Kendall, Lyle H., Jr. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the W.L. Lewis Collection--Part One.*

Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1970.

Here the book cannot be obtained at all. Maggs had a wretched copy with one board badly broken—too [p. 2] had a copy for me to touch—but they sold it for £3.10.0. A fine copy must certainly be worth £5.5.0. The specimen you so generously sent me is quite a good one. Mr. Spoor wrote me recently that Hill had “scoured the country” to find one for him, but without success. Your “Set of Six” is a perfect mystery. The copy Mr. Webster & I examined had the title &c. *forged*: of that there could be no possible doubt or question. And yet you think yours, also a cancel, is genuine. I wonder if after all the binders did cancel the title of a copy or too [deleted] two already in cloth! But fortunately it is a matter of small moment, as the *First Issue* is the form in which the book will always be desired. Ever Faithfully

T. J. Wise

ALS, 2 pages. Single sheet, 18.5 x 11.8 cm.

Laid paper. No watermark.

Envelope: 9,5 x 12 cm., back flap printed QUEEN'S HOTEL, | HASTINGS. 2-penny stamp.

Address: Paul Lemperley, Esq. | Lakewood | Ohio | [flourish] | U. S. A. | [flourish] (14205, Detroit, Avenue added in pencil between first two lines). Circled 5/3 (delivery date?) written on face of envelope.

Postmark: HASTINGS | 4 PM | 19 APR | 1921.

Provenance: Inserted in Conrad and Hueffer's *The Inheritors*, London, 1901, with Lemperly bookplate.

Unpublished.

Notes: 1. The Lewis Collection has the Spoor copy of *A Set of Six* (London: Methuen & Co., 1908) with the cancel leaf (verso *First Published in 1908*).

2. The “Magazine” was *The Bookman's Journal*: for particulars see Thomas J. Wise, *A Bibliography of the Writings of Joseph Conrad* (London: Privately printed, 1921), pages 41–44 (esp. 44). Volume I of Wise's *The Ashley Library | A Catalogue* (London: Privately printed, 1922), page 237, lists 1st and “2nd” issues of *A Set of Six*, with no mention of a cancel. Wilfred Partington explains, by implication, why Wise abandoned his position in *Forging Ahead* (New York, 1939), page 212, and *Thomas J. Wise in the Original Cloth* (London, 1936), page 229.