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Four Kinds of Proveance, Four Books

- Associational provenance LEON EDEL, *Henry James: The Untried Years, 1843–1870* (1953). Max Beerbohm's copy, later given by Rupert Hart-Davis to Leon Edel
- Collector provenance JOHN MEADE FALKNER, *The Lost Stradivarius* (1895) Thomas Hardy–Hugh Walpole–Michael Sadleir–H. Bradley Martin– Mark Samuels Lasner copy
- Obscure provenance MAXWELL GRAY, *Westminster Chimes: And Other Poems* (1890). The author's copy, later presented to J. Robertson Trowbridge
- Spurious provenance OSCAR WILDE, *The Sphinx* (1894). With forged inscription

HENRY JAMES

The Untried Years

By LEON EDEL

OF STRENTED



My sleep wordd bar ao chin, on dwy, Wra, newer a drwwr to fear tao . Write Lla Debry ¹n the acare model oid, y sweep. And the wage adarts to the near sec.

in Sundry bells would bring a recent bill bright eyer field and lasest (ally yearse black with the region local Would ally the calorance gamests

Farsens and mention would pair along, In 1965 reserving glowy: Chiltree yo by white base and a tong. And grandeline heat and heavy.

- AND LONDON



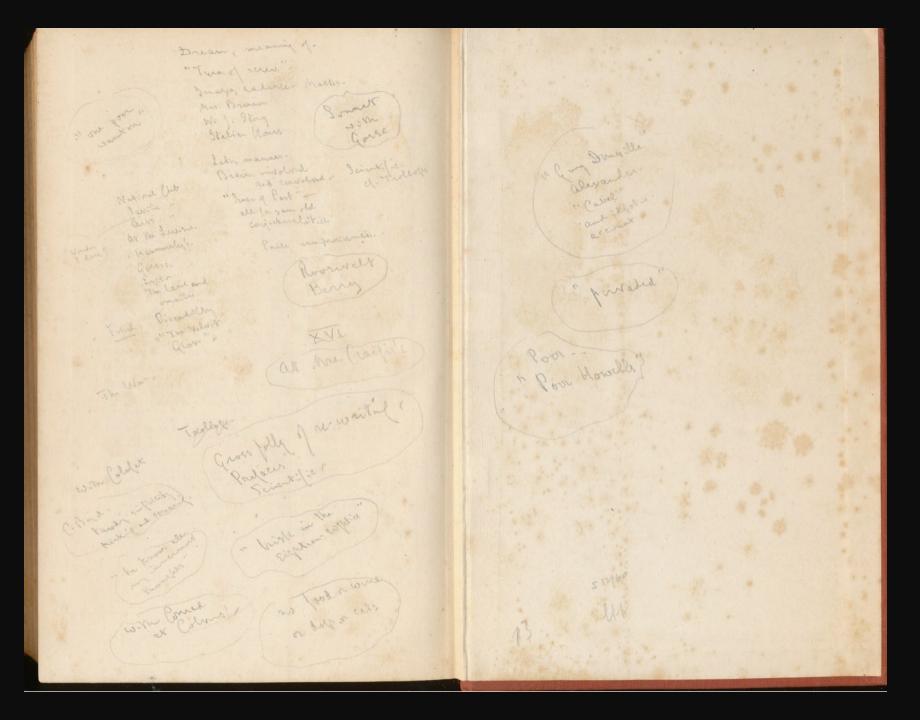
The Ideal Book Associational Provenance

"Provenance is interesting in proportion to the interest of the previous owners, whether contemporary with its publication, or as persons of importance in their own right, or because they were bookcollectors of note."

—John Carter

• The book has an intellectual or sentimental connection with its creator or creators, with its original owner, or with a subsequent owner

They Burkehm : copy, wi



A "Value Added Tax"? Collector Provenance

There is a satisfaction, not easily expressed in words, of owning a book which the cataloguer describes as 'the James Bindley-Upcott-Utterson-Daniel-Title-Beckford-Wadhul-Ashburnham-Huth-Huntington-Jones" copy . . . Some day the provenance of a book will play a much greater part than it does now in determining value." —George H. Sargent

• The book belonged to one or more collectors (or institutions) we can identify

Tuomar Harty Gour, very Failhfile - meade Fathner (12) vely 2 remember, I have a Small boy in Durhom . Watching Fellements heavy body lumbering up the Dunham Shiel . highelf relin of willing Wonden. emage and am litim. the once spoke to me. All lie Caltudant at were shocked Is their relations by "The Myrbuly Coat! I love the man to know day. He was a real abnormal personal



Obscure Provenance

"It is the general ambition of the [book collector] class to find value where there seems to be none."

–John Hill Burton

- Significance is discovered through research
- Almost all provenance is of interest to someone
- Ease of provenance research online: no owner left behind

Marin Dia Jon den Floro. 1890 Roberdson Jam bridge WESTMINSTER CHIMES AND OTHER POEMS Maxwell Drag Dr. 8 - 1921 a

A SONG OF REST.

II3

And I should lie so still the while, Till the wedding-bells came pealing; Ah! then I should stir, and remember the smile That stirred youth's deepest feeling.



A SONG OF REST.

112

With the daisies dancing o'er me, Within the sweet bells' pleasant sound, With lindens grouped before me !

My sleep would be so calm, so deep, With never a dream to fear me; While the breeze in the leaves would softly sweep, And the warm rains rustle near me.

The Sunday bells would bring a crowd Of bright-eyed lads and lasses; Their voices blent with the organ loud Would stir the quivering grasses.

Fathers and mothers would pass along, In life's meridian glory; Children go by with a laugh and a song, And grandsires bent and hoary.

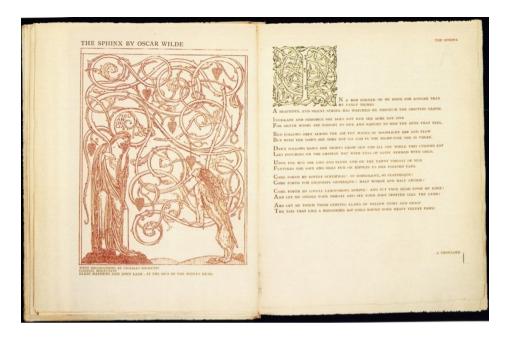
OH, were I at rest in the quiet ground,

Spurious Provenance

"The whole thing proves one more that, easy as it appears to be to fabricate reprints of rare books, it is in actual practice impossible to do so in such a matter that detection cannot follow the result."

—Thomas J. Wise

- Provenance is a tool for determining authenticity
- Not all provenance is honest
- What are dealers and collectors to do with pieces with false provenance?



Authentic Wilde inscription Forged Wilde inscription THE SPHINX 70 anthen clibton hom nis allectorate ARCEL SCHWOE AND IN ADMIRATION I made my life a bre on which cell winds should play the dutho Walter de Bosque -witt meg warmest regardo. Den Liede oren rigd 15-5.57.

Conclusion: Current Provenance

- Collectors, the book trade, and librarians should pay attention to provenance
- Indications of ownership should never be removed
- *We* are caretakers of *tomorrow's* provenance

