

OSCARIANA

The Oscar Wilde Society e-Newsletter



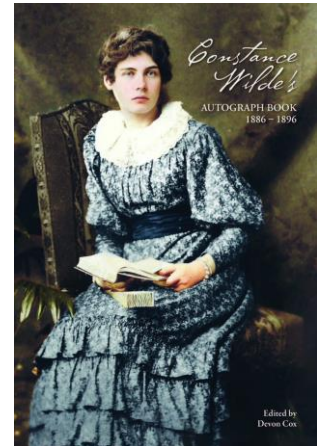
Edited by Aaron Eames

No. 86. December 2022

Constance Wilde's Autograph Book – A Toast

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muI7ysmqg_8

The Oscar Wilde Society has published *Constance Wilde's Autograph Book 1886-1896*, a remarkable look at the 'crème de la crème' of the fin-de-siècle world with entries from some of the most famous authors, artists, statesmen, actors and actresses as well as musicians, social activists and spiritualists of the age. Edited by Devon Cox and dedicated to Joan Winchell, the book features people from Sarah Bernhardt to William Gladstone to Mark Twain.



In this recording available on the Society's YouTube channel Devon Cox discusses the book's origins in this toast, given at the book launch held at the Savile Club on 14 October 2022. He is joined by our Chairman Donald Mead.

To order the book visit <https://oscarwildesociety.co.uk/autograph-book/>



Oscar Wilde Society Website: <http://oscarwildesociety.co.uk/>

YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/theoscarwildesociety>

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/OscarWildeSociety/> // Twitter – <https://twitter.com/OscarWildeUK>

Digital Subscription Option

Membership with Digital Subscription Only £28

<https://oscarwildesociety.co.uk/membership/>

For the first time, we are now also offering an optional digital subscription, which means that your copies of *The Wildean* and *Intentions* are mailed as printable PDF attachments. The price is the same for anywhere in the world.

Please address any queries to membership@oscarwildesociety.co.uk

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Celebrating Oscar Wilde

<https://www.classicstage.org/podcast/celebrating-oscar-wilde>

A live recording of Classic Stage Company (CSC)'s Classic Perspectives talkback celebrating the legacy of Oscar Wilde with playwright and director Moisés Kaufman, author of *Gross Indecency*, and LGBTQ+ historian Andrew Lear.



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Stephen Fry on the Blacklisted Podcast

De Profundis by Oscar Wilde

<https://soundcloud.com/blacklistedpod/de-profundis-by-oscar-wilde>

Guest speaker Stephen Fry, writer, actor and polymath, joined hosts John and Andy to discuss Oscar Wilde's *De Profundis*, the essay addressed to Lord Alfred Douglas 'from the depths' of Wilde's incarceration in Reading Gaol in 1897. It has been described by Colm Tóibín as 'one of the greatest love letters ever written'; it is also Wilde's most powerful testament of the sacred duty of the artist as he conceived it. They discuss the work's convoluted publication history, Wilde's posthumous reputation and his ongoing relevance in the 21st century.

In addition, Andy has been reading Hayley Campbell's fascinating *All the Living and the Dead* (Raven Books), which he describes as 'a work of true rigour mortis'; while John digs enthusiastically into *Villager* (Unbound), the new novel from writer and former Blacklisted guest Tom Cox. For more information visit www.backlisted.fm.

Timings:

14:19 – *All the Living and the Dead* by Hayley Campbell

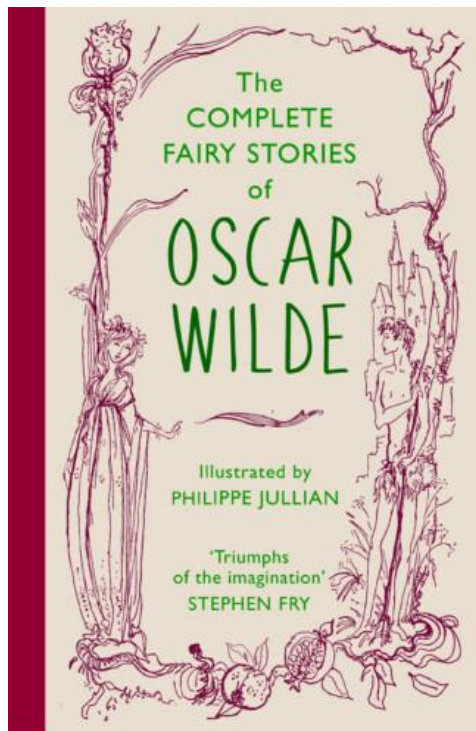
21:06 – *Villager* by Tom Cox

25:52 – *De Profundis* by Oscar Wilde

♦ ♦ ♦

The Complete Fairy Stories of Oscar Wilde

Illustrated by Philippe Jullian



<https://www.duckworthbooks.co.uk/book/the-complete-fairy-stories-of-oscar-wilde/>

'An absolute joy. A beautiful book, a wonderful gift, it breathes new life into Wilde's best work and will be treasure for generations to come.'

– Eleanor Fitzsimons, OWS Honorary Patron

The treasured fairy tales of Oscar Wilde in a stunning gift edition of Duckworth's 1952 *Complete Fairy Stories of Oscar Wilde*, featuring exquisite illustrations by the celebrated artist Philippe Jullian with an afterword by Wilde's son, Vyvyan Holland. For nearly 150 years, the classic fairy stories of Oscar Wilde have been cherished by readers of all ages. Rediscover all nine of the stories first published in *The Happy Prince and other stories* (1888) and *A House of Pomegranates* (1891).

♦ ♦ ♦

‘Oscar Wilde’ – Romantica

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WD4fSzVRv5s>

Society Press Officer Darcy Sullivan sent in this song named for Oscar with the chorus ‘But you just sit there quoting lines / From the irresistible Oscar Wilde / Because your own attempts at modern verse / Lack all the romance of an Irish curse’. Please keep the examples of Oscar in music coming to aaron.philip.eames1@gmail.com

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Constance Wilde’s Autograph Book

Edited by Devon Cox

Now on sale at Bow Street Police Museum

Devon Cox’s facsimile edition of Constance Wilde’s autograph book is now on sale in London’s West End! The Bow Street Police Museum is one of London’s newest and most fascinating attractions, containing the cell where Oscar was held on the night of 5 April 1895 and the dock (currently due for conservation as an historic LGBTQ artefact) in which he stood with Alfred Taylor, the only person to refuse the Crown’s offer of immunity from prosecution if he testified against Oscar.



The dock at Bow Street Court

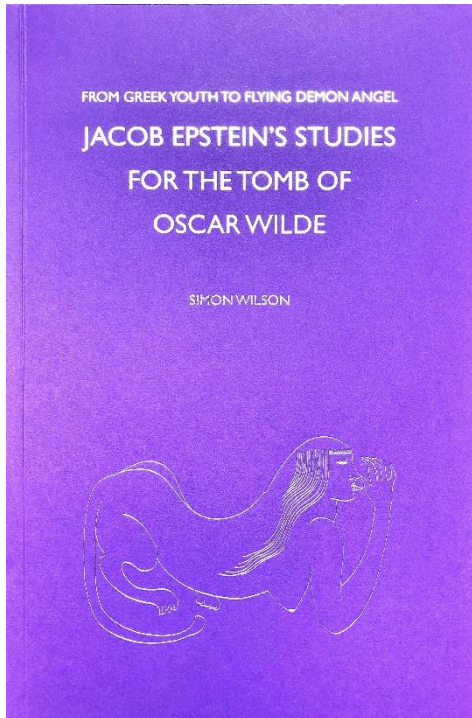
The book is also available on our website: <https://oscarwildesociety.co.uk/autograph-book/>

Jacob Epstein's Studies for the Tomb of Oscar Wilde

Simon Wilson

84 pp; The Sign of Nine, 2020

<https://oscarwildesociety.co.uk/publications/publications-books/>



Simon Wilson OBE has written the definitive history of Jacob Epstein's designs for Wilde's tomb at Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris. He has expanded his in-depth article from *The Wildean* no. 56 into a booklet, with new information and additional images. It has been gorgeously produced, printed on high-quality paper with black endpapers and one of Epstein's sphinxes silver-foiled on a purple card cover. In this booklet, Wilson – an art historian and retired Tate Museum curator – explores the inspirations and evolution of the controversial tomb sculpture. With never-before published images of Epstein's designs and insightful commentary, the booklet reveals how it morphed from a Greek youth to a 'flying demon angel', how it reflects Egyptian mythology, and how its genitals were hidden and then stolen!

This edition is strictly limited to 200 numbered copies.

£10 + £3 postage and packing (UK – for overseas postage, contact Robert Whelan at jacobtonson@googlemail.com) A black-card slipcase is available for an additional £10.

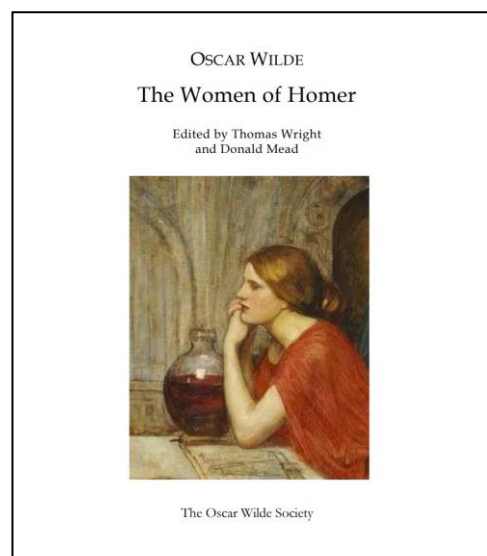
Payment in the UK by PayPal to membership@oscarwildesociety.co.uk. Please put 'Epstein Tomb' in the description box.

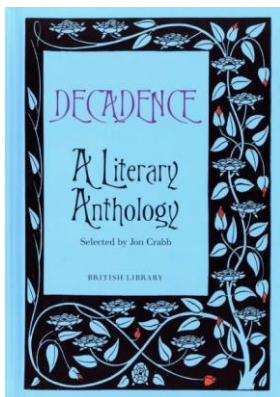


Two Works by Oscar Wilde, A Hellenist at Oxford

Oscar Wilde was a brilliant classicist whose love of the life, literature and thought of ancient Greece and Rome stayed with him throughout his life and exerted a profound influence on him. As a young man, long before his reputation as a writer was established, Wilde wrote, or at least began, two substantial works of criticism that were never published in his lifetime and which have been virtually inaccessible to the general reader ever since. They were published in scholarly critical editions by the Oscar Wilde Society in 2008 and 2012, but both works have long been out of print. They have now been brought together and are made available in one PDF which is available for £10. Payment by PayPal to:

membership@oscarwildesociety.co.uk





Decadence on Sale

PS Books

Decadence: A Literary Anthology is now on sale through PostScript Books, marked down from £20 to **£7.99**. Wildeans will find much to enjoy in this attractive volume, as Jad Adams explains in his review for *The Wildean* 52: <https://oscarwildesociety.co.uk/news/decadence-on-sale/>

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Oscar Wilde on Trial: The Criminal Proceedings, from Arrest to Imprisonment

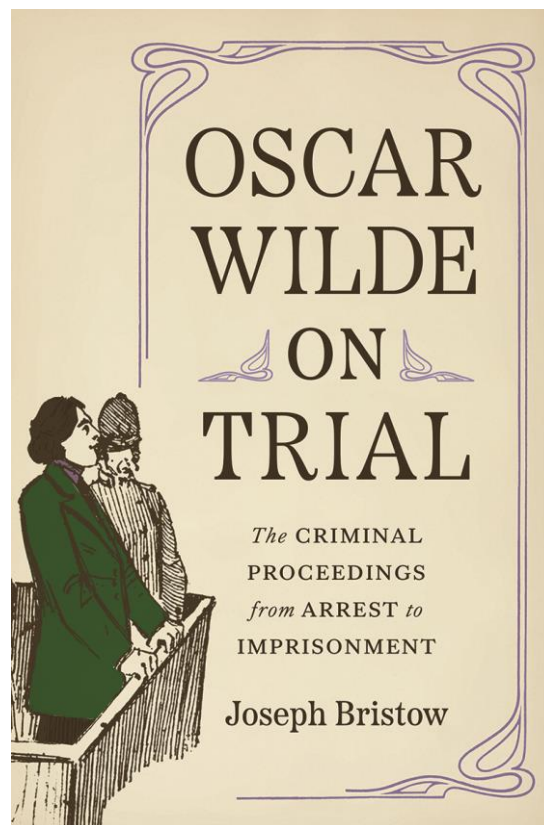
Joseph Bristow

Yale Books

The most authoritative account of a pivotal event in legal and cultural history: the trials of Oscar Wilde on charges of “gross indecency”.

Among the most infamous prosecutions of a literary figure in history, the two trials of Oscar Wilde for committing acts of “gross indecency” occurred at the height of his fame. After being found guilty, Wilde spent two years in prison, emerged bankrupt, and died in a cheap hotel room in Paris a few years after his release. The trials prompted a new intolerance toward homosexuality: habits of male bonding that were previously seen as innocent were now viewed as a threat, and an association grew in the public mind between gay men and the arts.

Oscar Wilde on Trial assembles accounts from a variety of sources, including official and private letters, newspaper accounts, and previously published (but very incomplete) transcripts, to provide the most accurate and authoritative account to date of events that were pivotal in both legal and cultural history.



There is a **30% discount** available for purchases made through the Yale Books UK website. Enter the code **WILDE** when prompted at checkout. The code runs **until 28 February 2023**.