



MERVYN PEAKE 1911 - 1968 a collection

A once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire what is thought to be the most extensive collection of Mervyn Peake items in the world. This collection has been formed over a period of more than 30 years and consists of over 500 individual items.

Of course, all the published books are represented in 1st Edition, but in addition there are a large number of variant issues, some previously unrecorded and some so far known only by a single example. There are subsequent edition, re-issues, foreign editions, paperbacks, proof copies, etc.



This is the collection of a fanatical completist which means that multiple copies of some titles are present with small variances. At some stage even a completist had to stop however; copies of *Swiss Family Robinson* appear with a wide variety of coloured headbands so I stopped at half a dozen copies. But even some previously unknown variants are present: *The Grey Walls Press* edition of his *Drawings* is represented by 3 different issues; the *Davis Poynter Edition* of *Drawings* by 2 issues.

In addition there are typescripts of three of his plays: *The Cave*, *The Wit to Woo*, and *Those Wicked Doctors* [the only known copy], all apparently agent's copies.

There are inscribed copies of *Shapes and Sounds* [Walter de la Mare's copy], *The Glassblowers*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, *Mr Pye* [with a lovely pen and ink illustration of a be-winged Mr Pye looking out to sea], *Figures of Speech* [with an additional illustration inserted which was not used in the published version], and the only signed copy of the *Keepsake Press Poems* I have seen, with the added bonus that it was Maurice Collis's copy [he wrote the introduction], with a charming letter from Collis to his son recounting a meeting with Maeve. A copy of *Bleak House* [published posthumously], with an original illustration of Mr Turveydrop [actually two illustrations back to back], a variant of that used in the published version.



A scrap-book with proof pulls for his illustrations for Grimm's Household Tales [including three unused illustrations].



The very rare menu for a PEN dinner known in this single example; the rare wartime propaganda postcard, known in only two examples; a rare etching issued as a card known only in this single example; a large sheet of three illustrations printed by Cowell's of Ipswich as a trial of their 'Plasticowell' process, known only in this example.



A very large number of periodicals including his earliest published piece, printed when only 11 years old; rare issues of Pinpoints, Ballet, Eve's Journal, as well as the more obvious Lilliput, London Mercury, etc.



Exhibition catalogues from the 1930s to the present day; a large run of Christmas cards designed by Peake and signed by his wife Maeve; theatre programmes designed by Peake, a mint copy of the only bookplate designed by him; other ephemera.



There are mock-ups and proofs for the Libanus Press editions of Alice and The Ancient Mariner and trials for the binding of the facsimile reprint of Captain Slaughterboard.

There is not a detailed catalogue or listing available, prospective purchasers are invited to view the collection by prior appointment.



Price for the collection £100,000

Contact: Michael Kemp 19 Adelaide Gardens, Minster-on-Sea, Sheerness, Kent ME12 3HN
 Telephone: +44 (0) 1795 663675; or mobile 07711 856075

There is also a small collection of original artwork available and priced separately.



Portrait. Watercolour. Unsigned. Dates from the 1935/6 when he was teaching a life class at the Central School of Art. This was painted for a pupil. [with copy letter of provenance]
 12 x 17 inches. Framed and glazed. £2200



Portrait. Oil on paper. Signed. 12 x 9 inches.
 Framed and glazed. £2750

This is a selection of privately owned pictures by Mervyn Peake which are offered for sale individually.

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Sark Landscape. Watercolour. 1933. Signed and dated. 11 x 8 inches. Framed and glazed. £995



Orchard, Sark. Watercolour. 1933. Signed and dated. 11 x 10 inches. Framed and glazed. £995



Sark coast. c.1933. Watercolour. Unsigned. 11 x 8 ½ inches. Framed and glazed. £750



Man with 2 sticks. Brush and ink. c. 1945. Signed.
 10 ½ x 12 inches. Framed and glazed. £1900
 From the Peake family.



The Dart Player. Pen and ink. Signed. 7 ½ x 11 ½ inches. Framed
 and glazed. £2950
 From Gordon Smith's collection and illustrated on p. 28 of
 Mervyn Peake; a personal memoir. 1984.



The Hood. Ink wash. c.1945. Signed. 9 x 9
 inches. Framed and glazed. £1250
 From the Peake family.



Young Maeve (1938). Sepia wash. Signed. 11 x 8 ½ inches.
 Framed and glazed. £3250
 From Gordon Smith's collection and illustrated on p. 66 of
 Mervyn Peake; a personal memoir. 1984.



Portrait of Jean Babilée. 1946. Unsigned. Pen and
 ink. 9 x 5 ½ inches. Framed and glazed. £1500
 Reproduced in Ballet, July 1946. The reverse has
 mark up notes for the printer, with provenance in
 an envelope on the back of the frame.