

A19

The Waltz Invention

Nabokov wrote *The Waltz Invention* in September 1938 (*VNTRY* 489–92, 494, 509 and *GCVN* 594–96). It first appeared in print in Russian as *Изобретание Вальса* [*Isobretanie Val'sa*] in the journal *Русские записки* [*Russkie zapiski/Russian annals*], No. 11, Nov-1938, pp. 3–62. It was subtitled “Драма в трех действиях [Drama v trek deistviiakh/Drama in three acts]” and dated Cap d’Antibes, September 1938.

It first appeared in book form in Russian as the title item in the collection *Изобретание Вальса: Пьесы* [*Izobretanie Val'sa: P'esy/The Waltz Invention: Plays*, St. Petersburg: Azbuka, 2000. It appears among the L-items.

Contrary to the 1986 bibliography, there was no British edition (listed there as A19.3).

Edition Summary

A19.1 The Waltz Invention FIRST TRANSLATED EDITION (PHAEDRA), 15-Feb-1966, 5 issues

A19.2 The Waltz Invention FIRST WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (POCKET BOOKS), Sep-1967, 1 issue

Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

The Waltz Invention

A19.1

FIRST TRANSLATED EDITION (PHAEDRA)

¶ First printing, variant a, 15-Feb-1966

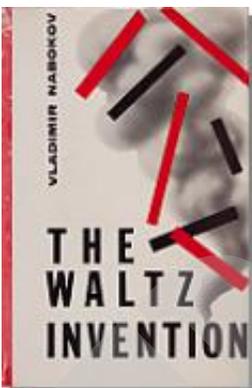
POINTS

Variant a has white endpapers, the pages bulk 1.0 cm., the first signature is of a non-acidic paper compared to the last three, and the back flap of the dust jacket has a third line for the distributor at the bottom, "New York 17, N.Y."

Variant b is as variant a except that all four signatures are from a non-acidic paper.

Variant c has red endpapers, the pages bulk 0.85 cm, and all four signatures are from a non-acidic paper.

Variant d has red endpapers, the pages bulk 0.85 cm., all four signatures are from a non-acidic paper, and the back flap of the dust jacket is without the third line of distributor information.



A19.1 First printing, variant a, 1966, dust jacket, front



A19.1 First printing, variant a, 1966, cover, front

Collation: (20.9 X 13.7 cm), [1–2]¹⁶ [3]¹² [4]¹⁶, 60 leaves, pp. [i–viii] [1–4] 5–111 [112]

Title page: THE | WALTZ | INVENTION | \rule\ | A PLAY IN THREE ACTS BY | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \publisher's device\ PHAEDRA, 1966

Copyright page: Written in Russian by Vladimir Nabokov | (*September 1938, Cap d'Antibes*) | First Published in Russkie Zapiski (*November, 1938, Paris*) | Translation into English by Dmitri Nabokov (*Summer, 1964, Milan, Italy.*) | Copyright © 1966 by Vladimir Nabokov | Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 66-15639 | First Edition, February 1, 1966 | Phaedra Inc. | 220 East 42nd Street | New York 10017, N.Y.

Typography/Paper: Pages bulk 1.0 cm. First signature is of non-acidic paper, last three of acidic paper.

Binding: Blue cloth over boards. White endpapers. All edges trimmed. **Front cover:** \black stamping of author's facsimile signature\ **Back cover:** \blank\ **Spine:** \running down\ \black stamping\ Nabokov THE WALTZ INVENTION PHAEDRA

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \red and black bars over black smoke\ \running up on left\ VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \running across\ THE | WALTZ | INVENTION. **Back cover:** \red and white topographic pattern, wrapping around to spine\ **Spine:** \running across\ NABOKOV | \running down\ THE WALTZ INVENTION | \running across\ PHAEDRA. **Front flap:** \$4.95 | THE WALTZ INVENTION | by | Vladimir Nabokov \book description\ **Back flap:** \book description continued\ PHAEDRA PUBLISHERS, INC. | 220 East 42nd Street | New York, N. Y. | **Distribution:** TRIDENT PRESS | 630 Fifth Avenue, New York 2, N. Y. | New York 17, N. Y.

Contents: [i] title page, [ii] copyright page, [iii] dedication, [iv] blank, [v–vii] foreword, [viii] blank, [1] fly-title, [2] blank, [3] cast of characters, [4] blank, 5–111 text, [112] blank

Price: \$4.95

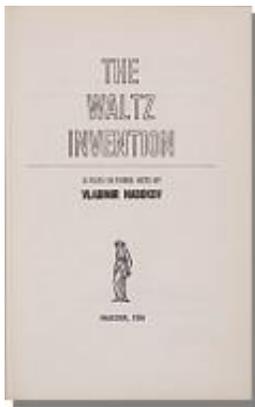
Description: The exact publication date isn't clear: The notice slip in a review copy has a publication date of 28-Feb-1966; the U.S. Copyright Office gives a publication date of 15-Feb-1966; and, the copyright page has a date of 1-Feb-1966. A review copy and the two Library of Congress deposit copies are of variant a. The ordering of variants a to d is based on the increasing differences among them and the other variants.

Though the copyright-page gives sole translation credit to Dmitri Nabokov, the author's foreword makes it clear that Vladimir and Dmitri collaborated.

There is a report of a variant a copy with only the third signature on acidic paper. I have not examined it.

Works:

- 1) Foreword [to *The Waltz Invention*]
- 2) The Waltz Invention [Изобретение Вальса]



A19.1 First printing, variant a, 1966, title page



A19.1 First printing, variant a, 1966, copyright page

¶ First printing, variant b, 15-Feb-1966

As variant a, except

Typography/Paper: All four signatures are of a non-acidic paper.

¶ First printing, variant c, 15-Feb-1966

As variant a, except

Typography/Paper: Pages bulk 0.85 cm. All four signatures are of a non-acidic paper.

Binding: Red endpapers.

¶ First printing, variant d, 15-Feb-1966

As variant a, except

Typography/Paper: Pages bulk 0.85 cm. All four signatures are of a non-acidic paper.

Binding: Red endpapers

Covering: White dust jacket. **Back flap:** \without the third line of distributor information, "New York 17, N.Y."

¶ Second printing, unknown date

As first printing, variant a, except

Collation: (21.4 X 13.5 cm), [1-4]¹⁶, 64 leaves, pp. [i-viii] [1-4] 5-111 [112-120]

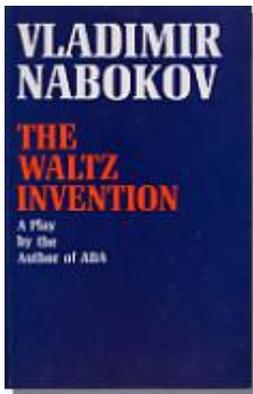
Typography/Paper: Pages bulk 1.0 cm. First signature paper slightly rougher than last three signatures' paper.

Binding: Dark blue cloth over boards. White endpapers.

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \blue background\ \two lines white\ VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | \three lines red\ THE | WALTZ | INVENTION | \three lines white\ A Play | by the | Author of ADA. **Back cover:** \blue background\ \photo of author with white ruled border, author's name in red\ **Spine:** \running across, blue background\ \four lines

POINTS

The second printing compared to all variants of the first has different signatures, different size, different binding, and a different dust jacket. The copyright page is exactly the same as for the first printing and makes no mention of its different production.



A19.1 Second printing, dust jacket, front

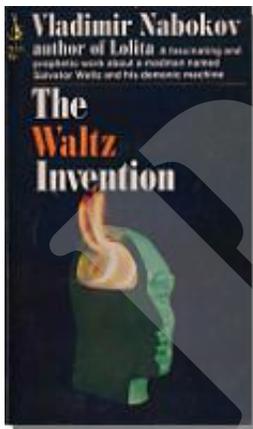


A19.1 Second printing, cover, front

A19.2

FIRST WRAPPERS TRANSLATED EDITION (POCKET BOOKS)

¶ First printing, Sep-1967



A19.2 First printing, 1967, cover, front

red\ THE | WALTZ | INVEN- | TION | \running down\ \white\
NABOKOV | \red\ PHAEDRA. **Front flap:** \$4.95 | \red\ THE WALTZ
INVENTION | \author, book description in blue\ **Back flap:** \description
continued, publisher information\

Contents: [i] title page, [ii] copyright page, [iii] dedication, [iv] blank, [v–
vii] foreword, [viii] blank, [1] fly-title, [2] blank, [3] cast of characters, [4]
blank, 5–111 text, [112–120] blank

Collation: (17.8 X 10.5 cm), 160 pages

Title page: The | Waltz | Invention | a play in three acts by | Vladimir |
Nabokov | \publisher's device\ | A POCKET CARDINAL EDITION |
PUBLISHED BY POCKET BOOKS • NEW YORK

Copyright page: THE WALTZ INVENTION | Phaedra edition published
February, 1966 | A Pocket Cardinal edition | 1st printing.....September,
1967 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \cross-sectional green head with
burning brain cavity\

Series and Number: Pocket Cardinal, 75233

Price: \$0.75

Works:

- 1) Foreword [to *The Waltz Invention*]
- 2) The Waltz Invention [Изобретение Вальса]