

Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

Nine Stories

A25

Nine Stories was the second in a New Directions series begun in 1941, each issue of which was devoted to one author or work. The collection was published on 8-Dec-1947.

Three stories were originally written in Russian (“The Aurelian”, “Cloud, Castle, Lake”, and “Spring in Fialta”), one in French (“Mademoiselle O”) and the other five in English. Nabokov gives translation assistance credit to Hilda Ward for the work from the French and translation collaboration credit to Peter Pertzov for the work from the Russian.

Seven of the stories first appeared in English in *The Atlantic Monthly* (“The Aurelian”, November 1941; “Mademoiselle O”, January 1943; “Cloud, Castle, Lake”, June 1941; “That in Aleppo Once...”, November 1943; “A Forgotten Poet”, October 1944; “The Assistant Producer”, May 1943; and “Time and Ebb”, January 1945). One story first appeared in *The New Yorker* (“Double Talk”, 23-Jun-1945) and one in *Harper’s Bazaar* (“Spring in Fialta”, May 1947). All nine stories reappeared 11 years later in *Nabokov’s Dozen*.

Edition Summary

A25.1 *Nine Stories* FIRST EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS), 8-Dec-1947, 2 issues

Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

Nine Stories

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FIRST EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS)

¶ First printing, variant a, 8-Dec-1947

POINTS

Variant a is bound in black cloth; variant b is bound in aquamarine wrappers.



A25.1 First printing, variant a, 1947, cover, front



A25.1 First printing, variant a, 1947, title page



A25.1 First printing, variant a, 1947, copyright page

Collation: (22.9 X 15.4 cm), [1–8]⁸, 64 leaves, pp. [1–6] 7–126 [127–128]

Title page: *Nine Stories* | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | *Direction* | TWO

Copyright page: COPYRIGHT 1947, BY VLADIMIR NABOKOV | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | three paragraphs of acknowledgments by Nabokov\ | PRINTED BY DUDLEY KIMBALL | AT THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN PRESS | PARSIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

Binding: Black cloth over boards. White endpapers. All edges trimmed.

Front cover: \gilt stamping\ NINE STORIES | *Vladimir Nabokov*. **Back cover and spine:** \blank\

Contents: [1] half-title, [2] statement about the series, [3] title page, [4] copyright page, [5] table of contents, [6] blank, 7–124 text, 125–126 note on author, [127–128] ads

Series and Number: *Direction*, 2

Description: James Laughlin, the publisher of *New Directions*, remembers that on all books in the “*Direction*” series, “I sometimes had a few, perhaps a dozen, bound up in what I think was black cloth. What those were intended for I cannot now remember.”

The table of contents lists the second story as “*Mademoiselle*” instead of “*Mademoiselle O*”.

Works:

- 1) Acknowledgements
- 2) The Aurelian [Пильграм]
– Translated in collaboration with Peter Pertzov.
- 3) Mademoiselle O
– Translated from the French by Nabokov with the assistance of Hilda Ward.
- 4) Cloud, Castle, Lake [Облако, озеро, башня]
– Translated in collaboration with Peter Pertzov.
- 5) “That in Aleppo Once...”
- 6) Double Talk
- 7) A Forgotten Poet
- 8) The Assistant Producer
- 9) Time and Ebb
- 10) Spring in Fialta [Весна в Фиальта]
– Translated in collaboration with Peter Pertzov.

¶ First printing, variant b, 8-Dec-1947

As variant a, except

Binding: Aquamarine wrappers with yapp edges. **Front cover:** \graphic of three black bars, three bent, two straight, and three with “*DIRECTION*” on



A25.1 First printing, variant b,
1947, cover, front

them in white, “lustig” in script in the upper-left\ 2 | NINE | STORIES | by
Vladimir Nabokov | \$1.50. **Back cover and spine:** \blank\

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(Draft of 28 Mar 2013)