

Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

Lectures on Literature

A51

In April 1972, Nabokov took a look at the lectures he had delivered at Wellesley, Cornell, Harvard, and elsewhere. He had long thought of publishing them but he was disappointed in what he read. "My university lectures (Tolstoy, Kafka, Flaubert, Cervantes, etc. etc.) are chaotic and sloppy and must *never* be published. None of them!" (*VNTAY* 602) They were, however. Three years after his death, *Lectures on Literature* became the first of four published volumes of lectures.

As Boyd points out (*VNTAY* 172–73), his notes

were in his own hand rather than typewritten, and with erasures and insertions, revisions, alternatives, supplementary sheets, looping arrows and sweeping crosses, a plethora of possibilities from which he had to select as he lectured. Already in class in the 1950s he announced plans to publish his lectures, and by the middle of the decade the project seemed under way. As late as the early 1970s he was still expecting to publish the material.

His wife and son missed that do-not-publish note when they were preparing the material. Boyd says, "The lectures as edited for publication contain many puzzling omissions, misreadings, spurious improvements, and even sheer editorial inventions." (*VNTAY* 173n)

Edition Summary

A51.1 Lectures on Literature FIRST EDITION (HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH, BRUCCOLI CLARK), Aug-1980, 1 issue

A51.2 Lectures on Literature FIRST BRITISH EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON), 22-Jan-1981, 1 issue

A51.3 Lectures on Literature FIRST WRAPPERS EDITION (BRUCCOLI CLARK, HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH), 1982, 5 issues

A51.4 Lectures on Literature FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PICADOR), 1983, 1 issue

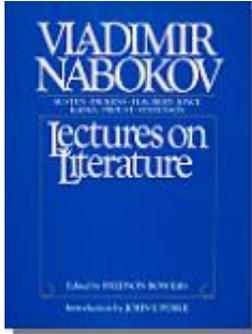
A51.5 Lectures on Literature NEW WRAPPERS EDITION (BRUCCOLI CLARK, HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH), 16-Dec-2002, 1 issue

Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

Lectures on Literature

A51.1 FIRST EDITION (BRUCCOLI CLARK)

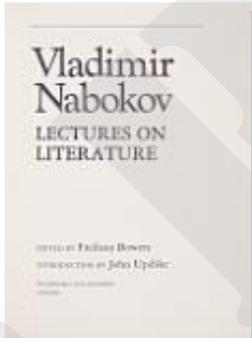
¶ First printing, Aug-1980



A51.1 First printing, 1980, cover, front



A51.1 First printing, 1980, binding, front



A51.1 First printing, 1980, title page



A51.1 First printing, 1980, copyright page

Collation: (25.3 X 18.9 cm), [1–13]¹⁶, 208 leaves, pp. [i–iv] v [vi] vii–xv [xvi] xvii–xxvii [xxviii–xxx] 1–6 [7–8] 9–10 [11] 12–20 [21] 22–28 [29] 30 [31] 32 [33] 34–60 [61–62] 63–65 [66–67] 68–70 [71] 72–98 [99] 100–128 [129] 130 [131] 132–136 [137] 138–140 [141] 142–144 [145] 146–152 [153] 154–160 [161] 162–176 [177–178] 179–184 [185] 186 [187] 188–194 [195] 196–204 [205–206] 207–208 [209] 210–212 [213] 214–222 [223] 224 [225] 226–228 [229] 230–242 [243] 244–249 [250] 251–256 [257] 258–262 [263] 264–283 [284] 285–291 [292–293] 294–302 [303] 304 [305] 306–324 [325] 326 [327] 328–334 [335] 336–339 [340–341] 342 [343] 344–385 [386]

Title page: \rule\ | Vladimir | Nabokov | LECTURES ON | LITERATURE | EDITED BY Fredson Bowers | INTRODUCTION BY John Updike | HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVIICH | BRUCCOLI CLARK NEW YORK AND LONDON

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ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-15-149597-1

Price: \$19.95

Additional Works: Editor’s foreword by Fredson Bowers, introduction by
John Updike

Works:

- 1) Good Readers and Good Writers
- 2) Jane Austen (1775–1817): *Mansfield Park* (1814)
 - Includes reproductions of the opening page of Nabokov’s teaching copy of *Mansfield Park*, a hand-drawn map of England, two pages of notes, a sketch of the layout of Mansfield Park, and a chronology of the novel.
- 3) Charles Dickens (1812–1870): *Bleak House* (1852-1853)
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- 6) Marcel Proust (1871–1922): *The Walk by Swann’s Place* (1913)
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- 7) Franz Kafka (1883–1924): “The Metamorphosis” (1915)
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 - 9) The Art of Literature and Commonsense
 - 10) L’Envoi [from *Lectures on Literature*]
 - 11) Appendix [from *Lectures on Literature*]
 - Sample questions from Nabokov’s exams on *Bleak House* and *Madame Bovary*.

A51.2

FIRST BRITISH EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON)

¶ First printing, 22-Jan-1981

As first edition, except

Collation: (25.2 X 19 cm), [1–13]¹⁶, 208 leaves, pp. [i–iv] v [vi] vii–xxvii [xxviii–xxx] 1–385 [386]

Title page: \rule\ | Vladimir | Nabokov | LECTURES ON | LITERATURE | EDITED BY Fredson Bowers | INTRODUCTION BY John Updike | WEIDENFELD AND NICOLSON | LONDON

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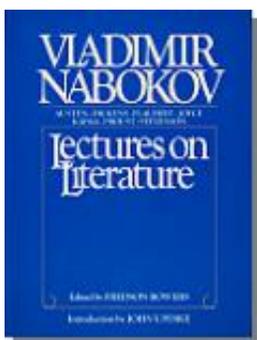
Binding: Blue cloth over boards. All edges trimmed. White endpapers. **Front cover:** \gilt stamping of author’s signature\ **Back cover:** \blank\ **Spine:** \all gilt stamping\ \one rule each running down the outside edges\ | \running down\ NABOKOV LECTURES ON | LITERATURE | \running across\ \publisher’s device\ | WEIDENFELD | & | NICOLSON

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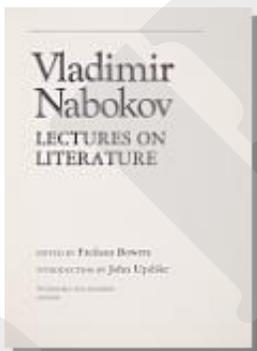
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Price: £12.50



A51.2 First printing, 1981, cover, front



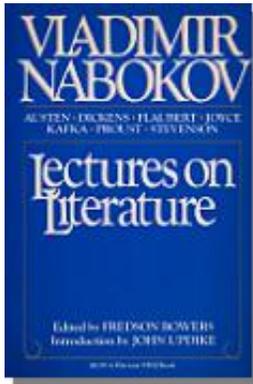
A51.2 First printing, 1981, title page



A51.2 First printing, 1981, copyright page

A51.3 FIRST WRAPPERS EDITION (BRUCCOLI CLARK)

¶ First printing, 1982



A51.3 First printing, 1982, cover, front

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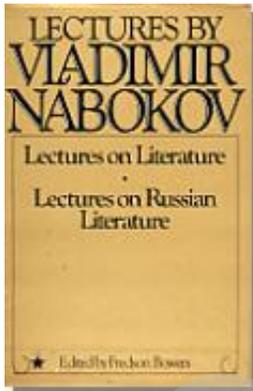
Binding: White wrappers with blue background.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-15-649589-9

Price: \$8.95

POINTS

This boxed set includes wrappers issues of *Lectures on Literature* and *Lectures on Russian Literature*.



A51.3 First printing, boxed set, 1983, slipcase, front

¶ First printing, boxed set, Feb-1983

Binding: Gold printed paper over boards as a slipcase enclosing wrappers issues of *Lectures on Literature* and *Lectures on Russian Literature*. **Front cover:** LECTURES BY | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | \all following within ruled border\ Lectures on Literature | • | Lectures on Russian | Literature | Edited by Fredson Bowers. **Back cover:** \as front cover except for large star at the beginning of the final line\.

Spine: LECTURES BY | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | \all following within ruled border\ Lectures on | Literature | • | Lectures on | Russian | Literature | \rule\ TWO VOLUMES BOXED | \rule\ EDITED BY | FREDSON BOWERS | \$17.95 | A HARVEST/HBJ EDITION | HARCOURT | BRACE | JOVANOVIICH, | PUBLISHERS | \publisher's device\ | \outside of border\ 0-15-649590-2

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Price: \$17.95

Description: Part of a boxed set of first printings of the wrappers issues of *Lectures on Literature* and *Lectures on Russian Literature* included in a slipcase.

¶ Second printing, unknown date

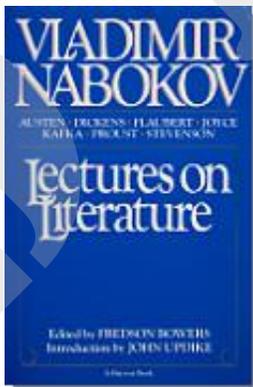
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¶ Third printing, unknown date

Unexamined

¶ Fourth printing, unknown date

As first printing, except



A51.3 Fourth printing, cover, front

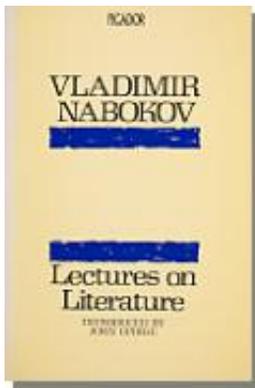
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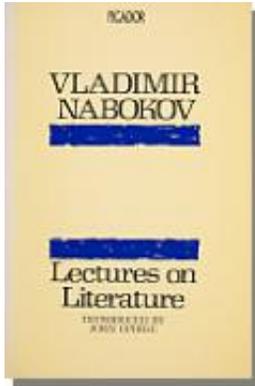
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A51.4 FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PICADOR, IMPRINT OF PAN)

¶ First printing, 1983



A51.4 First printing, 1983, cover, front

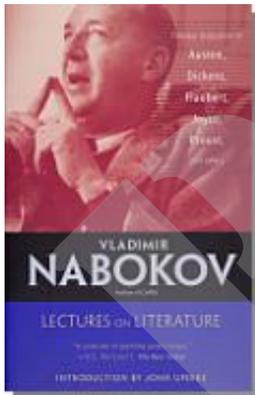


A51.4 First printing, 1983, cover, front

A51.5

NEW WRAPPERS EDITION (BRUCCOLI CLARK)

¶ First printing, 16-Dec-2002



A51.5 First printing, 2002, cover, front

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Collation: (19.7 X 12.9 cm), 416 pages

Title page: \rule\ | Vladimir | Nabokov | LECTURES ON | LITERATURE | EDITED BY Fredson Bowers | INTRODUCTION BY John Updike | \publisher's device of rule, name, rule\ | published by Pan Books

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Binding: White wrappers with yellow background and black and blue lettering.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-330-26973-9

Price: £3.95

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Collation: (20.3 X 12.8 cm)

Title page: VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | LECTURES ON | LITERATURE | EDITED BY FREDSON BOWERS | INTRODUCTION BY JOHN UPDIKE | A Harvest Book • Harcourt, Inc. | Brucoli Clark | San Diego New York London

Copyright page: \the author's name is consistently misspelled as "Nabakov" throughout the page\ ... | (A Harvest Book) | ... | ISBN 0-15-602775-5 | ... | First Harvest edition 1982 | J I H G F E D C B A

Binding: White wrappers with photo of Nabokov, designed by Jeff Puda

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-15-602775-5

Price: \$18.00

Description: At least four printings ("J I H G F E D" on the copyright page).