

A35

Pale Fire

Elements of what became *Pale Fire* were sparking Nabokov's imagination in late 1956 and possibly earlier. In fact, on 6-Mar-1957, he wrote at the top of an index card, "The story starts in Ultima Thule", a reference to the distant-northern-land-in-revolution theme he had played with earlier in his career (VNTAY 305-07). The outline of the novel he had in mind and which he sent to Jason Epstein of Doubleday on 24-Mar-1957 (SNSL 212-13) is different in many details, but not in tone from its final form.

Delayed by work on other projects, Nabokov didn't get around to fully attacking the novel until after an inspiration in a New York hotel at the end of October 1960 and sailing from the U.S. to Europe in November. On the French Riviera

...on November 29, he took up an index card and wrote the twelve brilliant opening lines of the poem "Pale Fire"—"the hardest stuff I ever had to compose." As with *The Gift*, where he started with Fyodor's life of Chernyshevsky, he wanted to tackle the most difficult part first (VNTAY 417).

He was focused now. He composed in his apartment in Nice. He composed while walking along the promenade. He composed steadily and energetically. Early in January 1961 he completed canto 2. On 11 February he completed the poem. He wrote to Walter Minton of Putnam's, "It is a fantastically beautiful thing." In mid-July he was working on Kinbote's foreword and four days later "finished at least half of *Pale Fire*." (VNTAY 417-20)

Finally, now settled into the Montreux Palace, he composed for four months and made final revisions at the end of November. On 4-Dec-1961 he wrote in his diary, "Finished *Pale Fire*, begun a year ago, 29 November (in its present form)." (VNTAY 423-24)

Pale Fire was published by Putnam's on 7-Apr-1962 and went through three printings. It has since gone through 14 further editions, two of which were aimed at the collectors' market. The Arion Press of San Francisco, a small fine-press publisher, issued *Pale Fire* in a limited edition two-volume boxed set in 1994. The novel volume contained the full book; the smaller poem volume contained just the poem, "Pale Fire", in an imagined replication of the lined index cards that John Shade used to compose his poem. In 2011 Gingko Press, a small press in Berkeley, CA, published just the poem in a three-paneled folding case with a pamphlet of the poem, another pamphlet of essays by Brian Boyd and R.S. Gwynn, and again an imagined replica of the poem's index cards as an unbound deck.

Edition Summary

- A35.1 Pale Fire** FIRST EDITION (G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS), 25-Apr-1962, 6 issues
- A35.2 Pale Fire** FIRST BRITISH EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON), 9-Nov-1962, 3 issues
- A35.3 Pale Fire** FIRST WRAPPERS EDITION (LANCER), May-1963, 2 issues
- A35.4 Pale Fire** FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (CORGI), 27-Nov-1964, 2 issues
- A35.5 Pale Fire** NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS EDITION (BERKLEY), Jul-1968, 19 issues
- A35.6 Fahles Feuer; Marginalien** FIRST GERMAN EDITION (ROWOHLT), 1968, 1 issue
- A35.7 Pale Fire** NEW BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PENGUIN), Oct-1973, 8 issues
- A35.8 Pale Fire** NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS EDITION (PERIGEE BOOKS), 8-Jul-1980, 5 issues
- A35.9 Pale Fire** NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS EDITION (VINTAGE), Apr-1989, 5 issues
- A35.10 Pale Fire** NEW BRITISH EDITION (EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY), 1992, 3 issues
- A35.11 Pale Fire** NEW AMERICAN EDITION (EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY), 1992, 4 issues
- A35.12 Pale Fire** NEW AMERICAN BOOK CLUB WRAPPERS EDITION (QUALITY PAPERBACK BOOK CLUB),

1993, 2 issues

A35.13 Pale Fire NEW AMERICAN EDITION (THE ARION PRESS), Mar-1994, 1 issue

A35.14 Pale Fire: A Poem in Four Cantos by John Shade FIRST EXTRACTED EDITION (GINGKO PRESS), 10-Oct-2011, 1 issue

A35.15 Pale Fire NEW BRITISH EDITION (PENGUIN), 2012, 1 issue

DRABER

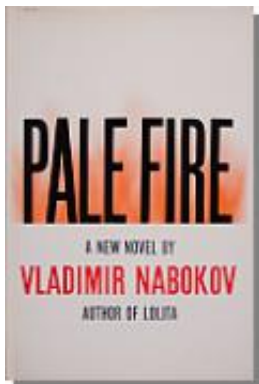
Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

Pale Fire

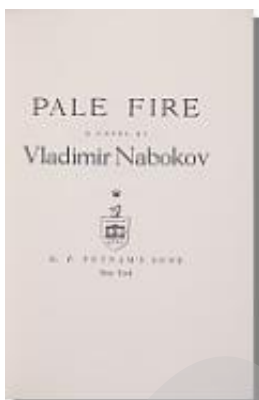
A35.1

FIRST EDITION (G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS)

¶ First printing, variant a, 25-Apr-1962



A35.1 First printing, variant a, 1962, cover, front



A35.1 First printing, variant a, 1962, title page



A35.1 First printing, variant a, 1962, copyright page

POINTS

There is no impression statement at the top of the front flap of the dust jacket.

Collation: (21.3 X 13.8 cm), [1–10]¹⁶, 160 leaves, pp. [1–13] 14–29 [30–33] 34–38 [39] 40–51 [52] 53–63 [64] 65–69 [70–73] 74–301 [302–305] 306–315 [316–320]

Title page: PALE FIRE | A NOVEL BY | Vladimir Nabokov | \publisher's device of a crown above and a beast's head above a shield depicting an ancient printing press, a water bird and 'GPPS'\ | G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS | New York

Copyright page: © 1962 by G. P. Putnam's Sons | All rights reserved. This book, or parts | thereof, must not be reproduced in any | form without permission. | Published simultaneously in the Dominion | of Canada by Longmans Canada Limited, | Toronto. | Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 62-7351 | Manufactured in The United States of America | by H. Wolff, New York | FIRST IMPRESSION

Binding: Black cloth over boards with red endpapers. All edges trimmed. Top edge stained red. **Front cover:** Blind stamping of 'VN' within an oval. **Spine:** \running down, gilt stamping\ PALE FIRE | Vladimir Nabokov | PUTNAM.

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \over red wisps\ PALE FIRE | \gray\ A NEW NOVEL BY | \red\ VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \gray\ AUTHOR OF LOLITA. **Back cover:** \photo of Nabokov by Guy de Belleval\ . **Spine:** \running across\ PALE | FIRE | \red\ NABOKOV | \gray\ PUTNAM. **Front flap:** PF | First Impression \$5.00 | \description, publisher information\ | \red\ 0562. **Back flap:** \ information about Nabokov \ Photo Credit: | GUY DE BELLEVAL | Carrefour de Rive 2 | Genève | SWITZERLAND | PRINTED | IN | U.S.A.

Contents: [1] half-title, [2] list of books by author, [3] title page, [4] copyright page, [5] dedication, [6] blank, [7] epigraph, [8] blank, [9] table of contents, [10] blank, [11] "Foreword", [12] blank, [13] text, 14–29 text, [30] blank, [31] "Pale Fire | A POEM IN FOUR CANTOS", [32] blank, [33] poem, 34–38 poem, [39] poem, 40–51 poem, [52] poem, 53–63 poem, [64] poem, 65–69 poem, [70] blank, [71] "Commentary", [72] blank, [73] text, 74–301 text, [302] blank, [303] "Index", note, [304] blank, [305] index, 306–315 index, [316–320] blank

Price: \$5.00

Description: Novel in the form of a foreword, a 999-line poem, commentary, and an index.

Works:

- 1) Pale Fire

¶ First printing, variant b, unknown date

As first printing, except

Covering: Dust jacket. **Front flap:** \No impression statement at the top.\

¶ Second printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | SECOND IMPRESSION

POINTS

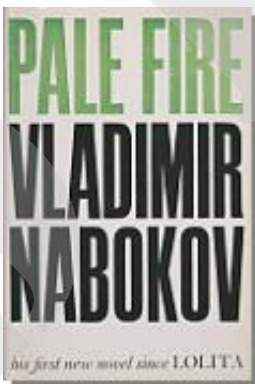
The dust jacket front flap has a printing statement and the black cloth binding is shinier.

POINTS

There is no printing statement on the front flap of the dust jacket.



A35.1 Book club printing, cover, front



A35.2 First printing, 1962, cover, front

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front flap:** PF | *Second Impression* \$5.00 | ...

¶ Third printing, variant a, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | THIRD IMPRESSION

Binding: Black shiny cloth over boards with red endpapers.

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front flap:** PF | *Third Impression* \$5.00 | ...

Description: There is a “Third Impression” statement at the top of the dust jacket’s front flap and the black binding cloth is much shinier than on other printings or variants.

If the author’s name in red is not visible on the dust jacket spine, look very carefully; sunning has caused it to fade away.

¶ Third printing, variant b, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | THIRD IMPRESSION

Binding: Black cloth over boards with red endpapers. Top and bottom edges trimmed, fore-edge untrimmed. Top edge stained red.

Covering: No impression statement at the top of the front flap of the dust jacket.

Description: This variant has no dust jacket flap printing statement.

¶ Book club printing, unknown date

As first edition, except

Binding: Black cloth over boards. White endpapers. All edges trimmed. Top edge stained red. **Front cover:** \blank\. **Back cover:** \square book club blind stamp\. **Spine:** \gilt stamping, running down\ Pale Fire NABOKOV | \gilt stamping, running across\ Putnam.

Covering: White jacket. Mauve and orange lettering. **Back cover:** Photo of the author.

Description: This book club edition is bound and jacketed in the same way as book club editions for *Speak*, *Memory* and *Lolita*. The publication date is unknown. But the fact that the three Nabokov works were published in the same format and with almost the same gutter codes implies that they were published at roughly the same time, and no earlier than the spring of 1962.

The gutter code on p. 320 is “HB2H”.

A35.2 FIRST BRITISH EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON)

¶ First printing, 9-Nov-1962

As first edition, except

Collation: (19.6 X 13.0 cm), 1–10¹⁶, 160 leaves, pp. [1–13] 14–29 [30–33] 34–38 [39] 40–51 [52] 53–63 [64] 65–69 [70–73] 74–301 [302–305] 306–315 [316–320]

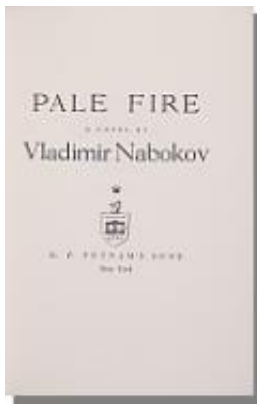
Title page: PALE FIRE | by | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD AND NICOLSON | 20 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1

Copyright page: © 1962 by G. P. Putnam’s Sons | First published in Great Britain in November 1962 | Printed in Great Britain by D. R. Hillman & Sons Ltd., Frome | 17/6756

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

Front cover: \blank\. **Back cover:** \blank\. **Spine:** \silver stamping, running across\ PALE FIRE | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD | & NICOLSON

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \green\ PALE FIRE | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | his first new novel since LOLITA. **Back cover:** \blurbs for five Nabokov books from the publisher. **Spine:** \all running across\ \green\ PALE FIRE | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD | & NICOLSON. **Front flap:** \green\ PALE FIRE | \book description\ | Jacket designed by



A35.2 First printing, 1962, title page



A35.2 First printing, 1962, copyright page

Larry Carter | 21s net. **Back flap:** \continuation of book description, photo of Nabokov by Horst Tappe, information about Nabokov\ | 17/6756

Contents: [1] half-title, [2] list of books by author, [3] title page, [4] copyright page, [5] dedication, [6] blank, [7] epigraph, [8] blank, [9] table of contents, [10] blank, [11] “Foreword”, [12] blank, [13] text, 14–29 text, [30] blank, [31] “Pale Fire | A POEM IN FOUR CANTOS”, [32] blank, [33] poem, 34–38 poem, [39] poem, 40–51 poem, [52] poem, 53–63 poem, [64] poem, 65–69 poem, [70] blank, [71] “Commentary”, [72] blank, [73] text, 74–301 text, [302] blank, [303] “Index”, note, [304] blank, [305] index, 306–315 index, [316–320] blank

Price: 21s

¶ Second printing, Nov-1962

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | *Second impresssion, November 1962* | ...

¶ Third printing, Dec-1962

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | *Third impression, December 1962* | ...

Covering: White dust jacket. **Back cover:** \seven blurbs about the book, listing of five other Nabokov titles\

A35.3 FIRST WRAPPERS EDITION (LANCER)

¶ First printing, May-1963

Collation: (18.1 X 10.5 cm), 224 pages

Title page: \device\ | PALE | FIRE | A Novel By | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | LANCER BOOKS • NEW YORK

Copyright page: \publisher’s device\ | A LANCER BOOK • 1963 | TO VÉRA | PALE FIRE | *This book is published | by arrangement with G. P. Putnam’s Sons, Inc. | Copyright 1962 by G. P. Putnam’s Sons | All rights reserved. This book or parts thereof, must not be reproduced in any | form without permission. | Printed in the U.S.A. | LANCER BOOKS, INC. • 26 West 47TH STREET • NEW YORK 36, N.Y.*

Binding: White wrappers. All edges stained green. Red, black, and gray lettering with title over flame-like colors of red, orange, yellow, and white.

Series and Number: Lancer 72-661

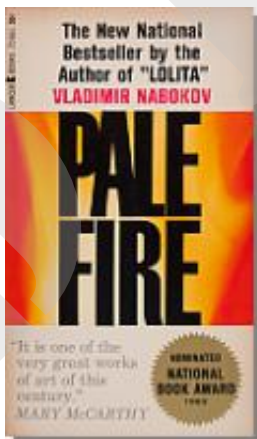
Price: \$0.50

Works:

1) Pale Fire

¶ Second printing, May-1966

As first printing, except



A35.3 First printing, 1963, cover, front



A35.3 Second printing, 1966, cover, front

A35.4



A35.4 First printing, 1964, cover, front



A35.4 Second printing, 1966, cover, front

A35.5

Collation: (17.7 X 10.6 cm)

Title page: *Pale Fire* | *Vladimir Nabokov* | \publisher's device\ | LANCER BOOKS • NEW YORK

Copyright page: \publisher's device\ | A LANCER BOOK • 1966 | ... | First Lancer edition, May 1963 | Second Lancer edition, May 1966 | ... | LANCER BOOKS, INC. • 185 MADISON AVE. • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

Binding: White wrappers. All edges stained plum. Cover art of sleeping hatless, barefoot man in lilac top and pants slumped on a throne.

Series and Number: Lancer 75-009

Price: \$0.95

FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (CORGI, IMPRINT OF TRANSWORLD)

¶ First printing, 27-Nov-1964

Collation: (18.0 X 10.9 cm), 352 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | PALE FIRE | \publisher's device\ | TRANSWORLD PUBLISHERS | LONDON

Copyright page: PALE FIRE | A CORGI BOOK | Originally published | in Great Britain by | Weidenfeld & Nicolson, Ltd. | PRINTING HISTORY | Weidenfeld & Nicolson Edition published 1962 | Weidenfeld & Nicolson Edition reprinted 1962 | Corgi Edition published 1964 | Copyright © by G. P. Putnam's Sons | ... | Corgi Books are published by Transworld Publishers Ltd., | Bashley Road, London, N.W.10. | Made and printed in Great Britain by | Hunt, Barnard & Co., Ltd., Aylesbury, Bucks.

Binding: White wrappers. Reddish orange title over black background

Series and Number: EN7054

Price: 11/6

Works:

1) Pale Fire

¶ Second printing, 5-Apr-1966

Collation: (17.8 X 11.2 cm), 352 pages

Title page: Vladimir | Nabokov: | Pale Fire

Copyright page: ... | Corgi Modern Reading Edition published 1966 | ... | Cover illustration by Ken Sequin | ...

Covering: White wrappers. White lettering with orange and yellow butterfly patterned with faces.

Series and Number: EL6753

Price: 7s 6d

NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS EDITION (BERKLEY)

¶ First printing, Jul-1968

As first wrappers edition, except

Collation: (17.8 X 10.6 cm), 224 pages

Title page: \scrollwork, rule\ PALE FIRE | \rule\ | Vladimir Nabokov | \scrollwork\ | \publisher's device\ | \rule\ | A BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOK | published by | BERKLEY PUBLISHING CORPORATION | \rule\

Copyright page: TO VÉRA | Copyright © 1962 by G. P. Putnam's Sons | All



A35.5 First printing, 1968, cover, front

rights reserved | *Published by arrangement with* | G. P. Putnam's Sons | BERKLEY MEDALLION EDITION, JULY, 1968 | \rule\ | BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOKS are published by | Berkley Publishing Corporation | 200 Madison Ave. | New York, N.Y. 10016 | \rule\ | BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOKS ® TM 757,375 | Printed in the United States of America

Binding: White wrappers. All edges stained yellow. Black and gold lettering with the title in a variable reddish pattern

Series and Number: N1580

Price: \$0.95

¶ Second printing, Dec-1968

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 2nd Printing, January, 1969 | ...

Description: All of the later printings give a Dec-1968 printing date.

¶ Third printing, Aug-1969

As second printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 3rd Printing, August, 1969 | ...

¶ Fourth printing, Oct-1969

As third printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 4th Printing, October, 1969 | SBN 425-01580-7 | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 425-01580-7

¶ Fifth printing, May-1970

As fourth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 5th Printing, May, 1970 | ...

¶ Sixth printing, Apr-1972

As fifth printing, except

Title page: PALE FIRE | Vladimir Nabokov | \publisher's device\ | \rule\ | A BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOK | PUBLISHED BY | BERKLEY PUBLISHING CORPORATION | \rule\

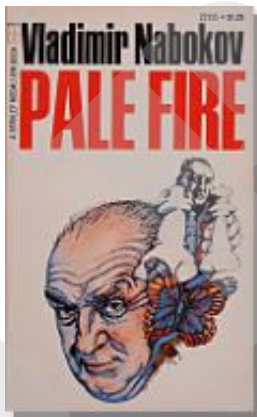
Copyright page: ... | SBN 425-02155-6 | ... | New Edition, April, 1972 (6th Printing)

Binding: White wrappers. Cover with colored drawing by Paul Williams of Nabokov's face, chess pieces, butterfly, and a bee

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 425-02155-6

Series and Number: Z2155

Price: \$1.25



A35.5 Sixth printing, 1972, cover, front

¶ Seventh printing, unknown date

As sixth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | SEVENTH PRINTING

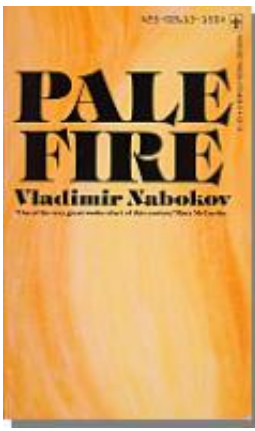
¶ Eighth printing, unknown date

Unexamined

¶ Ninth printing, 1974

As sixth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | SBN 425-02613-2 | ... | Berkley Medallion Edition, NINTH, 1974



A35.5 Ninth printing, 1974, cover, front

Binding: White wrappers. Lettering over pale orange and yellow wisps.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 425-02613-2

Series and Number: 425-02613-150

Price: \$1.50

¶ Tenth printing, 1975

As ninth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Berkley Medallion Edition, TENTH PRINTING, 1975

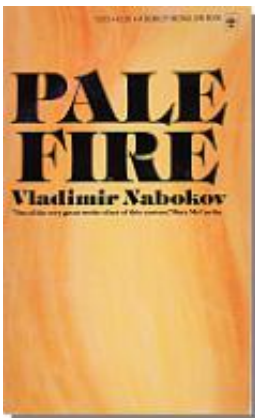
¶ Eleventh printing, unknown date

As tenth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | ELEVENTH PRINTING

Series and Number: T3172

Price: \$1.95



A35.5 Eleventh printing, cover, front

POINTS

The twelfth and thirteenth printings have misstated printing numbers on their copyright pages.

¶ Twelfth printing, unknown date

As eleventh printing, except

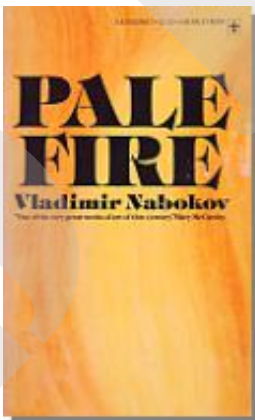
Copyright page: ... | SBN 425-03784-3 | ... | TWENTIETH PRINTING

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 425-03784-3

Series and Number: 425-03784-3

Price: \$2.50

Description: Though stated as the “twentieth printing”, evidence of the price, cover, and SBN show that this printing and the stated “twenty-first printing” appeared after the eleventh printing and before the fourteenth printing.



A35.5 Twelfth printing, cover, front

¶ Thirteenth printing, unknown date

As twelfth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | TWENTY-FIRST PRINTING

Description: See the description of the twelfth printing.

POINTS

On the copyright page, variant a gives the printing date, variant b doesn't.



A35.5 Fourteenth printing, variant a, 1981, cover, front

¶ Fourteenth printing, variant a, Apr-1981

Collation: (17.9 X 10.5 cm), 224 pages

Title page: \script\ Vladimir Nabokov | PALE FIRE | \publisher's device\ | BERKLEY BOOKS, NEW YORK

Copyright page: ... | Berkley Medallion edition / June 1968 | Fourteenth printing / April 1981 | ... | ISBN 425-04636-2 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. Author in script and title in blurs of yellow and black

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 425-04636-2

Price: \$2.95

¶ Fourteenth printing, variant b, unknown date

As fourteenth printing, variant a, except

Copyright page: ... | Fourteenth Printing | ...

¶ Fifteenth printing, Dec-1982

As fourteenth printing, variant a, except

Copyright page: ... | Fifteenth printing / December 1982 | ... | ISBN 0-425-06238-4 | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-425-06238-4

Price: \$3.50



A35.5 Fifteenth printing, 1982, cover, front

¶ Sixteenth printing, Apr-1984

As sixteenth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Sixteenth printing / April 1984 | ...

¶ Seventeenth printing, Nov-1985

Copyright page: ... | Seventeenth printing / November 1985 | ... | ISBN 0-425-09322-0 | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-425-09322-0



A35.5 Seventeenth printing, 1985, cover, front

¶ Eighteenth printing, unknown date



A35.5 Eighteenth printing, cover, front

As seventeenth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 20 19 18 | ...

Price: \$3.95

A35.6

FIRST GERMAN EDITION (ROWOHLT)

¶ First printing, 1968



A35.6 First printing, 1968, cover, front

Collation: (19.2 X 11.4 cm), 116 pages

Title page: \thick and thin ruled border around entire page\ VLADIMIR NABOKOV | Fahles Feuer | Marginalien | \short bloated rule\ | ROWOHLT

Copyright page: ... | 1.—6. Tausend 1968 | ...

Binding: wrappers

Description: This German edition includes the 999-line poem in English.

Additional Works: Essays by Andrew Field and Uwe Frieseld; excerpts from reviews; and, sources of the material

Works:

- 1) **Excerpt:** Pale Fire
– Includes only the 999-line poem.

A35.7

NEW BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, Oct-1973



A35.7 First printing, 1973, cover, front

Collation: (18.1 X 11.0 cm), 256 pages

Title page: Vladimir Nabokov | Pale Fire | Penguin Books

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1973 | ...

Covering: White wrappers. Front cover in pale blue background with author's name in script, designed by John Gorham

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-003692-X

Price: 35p

Works:

- 1) Pale Fire

¶ Second printing, 1981

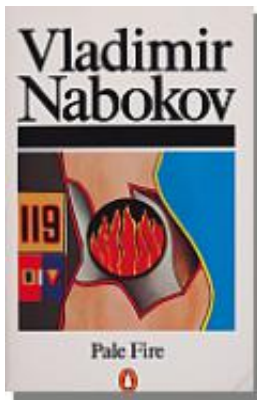
As first printing, except

Collation: (19.8 X 12.8 cm)

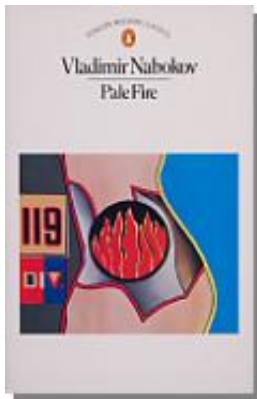
Copyright page: ... | Reprinted 1981 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. Cover painting, detail from *119th Division* by Richard Lindner.

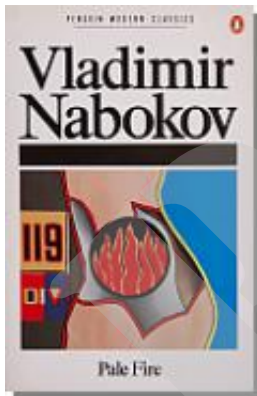
Price: £2.25



A35.7 Second printing, 1981,
cover, front



A35.7 Third printing, 1985,
cover, front



A35.7 Fourth printing, 1987,
cover, front

¶ Third printing, 1985

As second printing, except

Title page: Vladimir Nabokov | Pale Fire | \publisher's device\ | Penguin Books

Copyright page: ... | Reprinted 1981, 1985 | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-008193-3

Series and Number: Penguin Modern Classics

Price: £3.95

¶ Fourth printing, 1987

As third printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Reprinted 1981, 1985, 1987 | ...

Price: £4.95

¶ Fifth printing, 1988

As third printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Reprinted 1981, 1985, 1987, 1988 | ...

Price: £4.99

¶ Sixth (first stated) printing, 1991

Collation: (19.7 X 12.9 cm), 256 pages

Title page: Vladimir Nabokov | Pale Fire | With an Introductory Essay | by Mary McCarthy | \publisher's device\ | Penguin Books

Copyright page: ... | Reprinted with an Introductory Essay 1991 | 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. Cover art of detail from *La Femme à la puce* by Georges de la Tour

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-018168-7

Series and Number: Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics



A35.7 Sixth (first stated) printing, 1991, cover, front



A35.7 Seventh (first stated) printing, 2000, cover, front



A35.7 Ninth (first stated) printing, 2011, cover, front

Price: £5.99

Description: Includes “A Bolt from the Blue”, an essay by Mary McCarthy

¶ Seventh (first stated) printing, 2000

As sixth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Reprinted in Penguin Classics 2000 | 1 | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-118526-0

Series and Number: Penguin Classics

Price: £7.99

¶ Ninth (first stated) printing, 3-Feb-2011

Collation: (19.6 X 12.6 cm), 256 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | *Pale Fire* | \publisher’s device\ | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: PENGUIN CLASSICS | ... | Reissued in Penguin Classics 2011 | 1 | ... | 978-0-141-18526-2 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \ art by Peter James Field of white-haired seated man writing and a tree with a swing on a patterned background\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-141-18526-2

Series and Number: Penguin Classics/Modern Classics

Price: £12.00

A35.8

NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS EDITION (PERIGEE BOOKS, IMPRINT OF PUTNAM’S)

¶ First printing, 8-Jul-1980

As first edition, except

Collation: (22.0 X 13.5 cm), 312 pages

Title page: PALE FIRE | Vladimir Nabokov | A Perigee Book

Copyright page: ... | Perigee Books | are published by | G. P. Putnam’s Sons | ... | Reprint of the ed. published by Putnam, New York. | ... | First Perigee Printing, 1980. | ...

Binding: White wrappers. White and red lettering with white flame design against red background.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 399-50458-3

Price: \$5.95



A35.8 First printing, 1980, cover, front



A35.8 Third printing, cover, front

¶ Second printing, unknown date

Unexamined

¶ Third printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Title page: PALE FIRE | Vladimir Nabokov | A WIDEVIEW/PERIGEE BOOK

Copyright page: ... | Third Impression

Price: \$7.95

¶ Fourth printing, unknown date

As third printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Fourth Impression

¶ Fifth printing, unknown date

As third printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Fifth Impression

Price: \$8.95

A35.9

NEW AMERICAN WRAPPERS EDITION (VINTAGE, IMPRINT OF RANDOM HOUSE, USA)

¶ First printing, Apr-1989

As first edition, except

Collation: (20.4 X 13.0 cm), 320 pages

Title page: \ruled board with corner dots all around\ | PALE FIRE | \row of devices\ | A NOVEL BY | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | VINTAGE INTERNATIONAL | VINTAGE BOOKS A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE, INC. | NEW YORK

Copyright page: \publisher's device\ | FIRST VINTAGE INTERNATIONAL EDITION, APRIL 1989 | ... | ISBN 0-679-72342-0: \$8.95 | ... | 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Binding: White wrappers. Photo of shadowy man peering through binoculars, by Barnaby Hall.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-679-72342-0

Series and Number: Vintage International

Price: \$8.95

Description: The typesetting of the 1962 Putnam edition, A35.1, spawned two further editions, A35.2 and A35.8.

Nabokov's corrections of that typesetting were incorporated into the text of this edition and published for the first time:

- p. 76, line 25 – changed “*émailée*” to “*émaillée*”.
- p. 121, line 28 – changed “closet,” to “closet door,”.
- p. 137, line 22 – changed “rustic” to “rusty”.
- p. 151, line 28 – changed “Catskin” to “Catkin”.
- p. 223, line 13 – changed “note to 550)” to “note to 549)”.
- p. 237, line 1 – changed “—For” to “—for”.
- p. 241, line 7 – changed “lines” to “rhymes”.

¶ Second printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 | ...

Price: \$9.95



A35.9 First printing, 1989, cover, front

¶ Eighth printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 10 9 8 | ...

Price: \$11.00

¶ Fifteenth printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 20 19 18 17 16 15 | ...

Price: \$13.00

¶ Thirty-second printing, 2009

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 33 35 37 39 40 38 36 34 32 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** Part of a specimen box filled with a smoking match pinned to a plum-colored background with the title and the author's name in a lighter plum, by Stephen Doyle, cover photograph by Alison Gootee.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-679-72342-4

Price: \$15.00



A35.9 Thirty-second printing, 2009, cover, front

A35.10

NEW BRITISH EDITION (EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY, IMPRINT OF DAVID CAMPBELL)

¶ First printing, 1992

Collation: (20.5 X 12.3 cm), 336 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \fancy gray border around title\ *Pale Fire* | \publisher's device\ | \short rule\ | EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY | 67

Copyright page: ... | First included in Everyman's Library, 1992 | ... | Introduction, Bibliography and Chronology © David Campbell | Publishers Ltd., 1992 | ISBN 1-85715-067-8 | ... | Printed and bound in Germany

Binding: Blue cloth over boards with headband and ribbon marker. Gilt stamping on spine only.

Covering: White dust jacket. Lettering in red and black.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 1-85715-067-8

Series and Number: Everyman's Library, 67

Price: £8.99

Additional Works: "Introduction" by Richard Rorty, "Select Bibliography", and "Chronology"

Works:

1) *Pale Fire*

¶ New printing, unknown date

Collation: (20.5 X 12.3 cm), 272 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \fancy border around title\ *Pale Fire* | with an Introduction by | Richard Rorty | \publisher's device\ | \short rule\ | EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY | 67

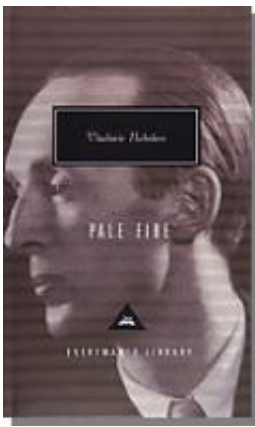
Copyright page: First included in Everyman's Library, 1992 | ... | Typography by Peter B. Willberg | ISBN 1-85715-067-8 | ... | Published by David Campbell Publishers Ltd., | ...

Binding: Red cloth over boards with headband and ribbon marker. Gilt stamping on spine only.

Covering: White dust jacket. Front cover photo of young Nabokov overlaid with black and gold horizontal lines.



A35.10 First printing, 1992, cover, front



A35.10 New printing, cover, front



A35.10 Special printing, cover, front

A35.11



A35.11 First printing, 1992, cover, front

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 1-85715-067-8

Series and Number: Everyman's Library, 67

Price: £9.99

Description: This printing is completely reset and with a different pagination than the first printing.

¶ Special printing, unknown date

As new printing, except

Copyright page: This book is one of 250 volumes in Everyman's Library | which have been distributed to 4500 state schools | throughout the United Kingdom. | The project has been supported by a grant of £4 million | from the Millennium Commission. | ...

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \broad horizontal lined border on edge\ \within black ruled box\ \white\ THE MILLENNIUM LIBRARY | \author in red\ VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | \short rule\ | \red\ LOLITA | \Millennium device\ A MILLENNIUM PROJECT | SUPPORTED BY FUNDS | FROM THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 1-85715-067-8

Series and Number: A Millennium Project

Price: None

NEW AMERICAN EDITION (EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY, IMPRINT OF KNOPF)

¶ First printing, 1992

Collation: (20.5 X 12.3 cm), 336 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \fancy gray border around title\ *Pale Fire* | \publisher's device\ | \short rule\ | EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY | Alfred A. Knopf New York | 67

Copyright page: THIS IS A BORZOI BOOK | PUBLISHED BY ALFRED A. KNOPF, INC. | ... | First included in Everyman's Library, 1992 | Introduction, Bibliography and Chronology © 1992 BY | David Campbell Publishers Ltd. | ... | ISBN 1-0679-41077-5 | ... | Printed and bound in Germany

Binding: Blue cloth over boards with headband and ribbon marker. Gilt stamping on spine only.

Covering: White dust jacket consisting of the front cover and front flap only and covered with a full Mylar dust jacket. Lettering in red and black.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-0679-41077-5

Series and Number: Everyman's Library, 67

Price: \$17.00

Additional Works: "Introduction" by Richard Rorty, "Select Bibliography", and "Chronology"

Works:

1) Pale Fire

¶ Second printing, 1998

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | Manufactured in the United States of America | Second printing

Binding: Red cloth over boards with headband and ribbon marker. Gilt stamping on spine only.

Covering: White dust jacket. Front cover photo of young Nabokov overlaid with black and gold horizontal lines.

¶ Third printing, 2001

Collation: (20.5 X 12.3 cm), 272 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \fancy border around title\ *Pale Fire* | with an Introduction by | Richard Rorty | \publisher's device\ | \short rule\ | EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY | Alfred A. Knopf New York Toronto | 67

Copyright page: THIS IS A BORZOI BOOK | PUBLISHED BY ALFRED A. KNOPF, INC. | ... | First included in Everyman's Library, 1992 | Introduction, Bibliography and Chronology © 1992 by | David Campbell Publishers Ltd. | ... | Third printing | ... | ISBN 1-0679-41077-5 | ... | Printed and bound in Germany

Binding: Red cloth over boards with headband and ribbon marker. Gilt stamping on spine only.

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \photo of young Nabokov overlaid with black and gold horizontal lines\ **Back flap:** \copyright date of 2001 running up\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-679-41077-5

Series and Number: Everyman's Library, 67

Price: \$17.00

Description: This printing is completely reset and with a different pagination than the first two printings.

¶ Fifth printing, 2001

As third printing, except

Collation: (20.5 X 12.3 cm), 280 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | \red\ PALE FIRE | WITH AN INTRODUCTION | BY RICHARD RORTY | \publisher's device\ | EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY | Alfred A. Knopf New York London Toronto | 67

Copyright page: THIS IS A BORZOI BOOK | PUBLISHED BY ALFRED A. KNOPF, INC. | ... | First included in Everyman's Library, 1992 | ... | Fifth printing | ... | ISBN 1-0679-41077-5 (US) | 1-85715-067-8 (UK) | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-679-41077-5, 1-85715-067-8

Price: \$19.00

A35.12

NEW AMERICAN BOOK CLUB WRAPPERS EDITION (QUALITY PAPERBACK BOOK CLUB)

¶ First printing, variant a, 1993

As first edition, except

Collation: (21.0 X 13.8 cm), 320 pages

Title page: PALE FIRE | \butterfly\ | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | QUALITY PAPERBACK BOOK CLUB | NEW YORK

Copyright page: Copyright © 1962 by Vera Nabokov and Dmitri Nabokov | This edition was specially created in 1993 for Quality Paperback Book Club by arrangement | with Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc. This edition copyright © 1993 by Book- | of-the-Month Club, Inc. All rights reserved. | Printed in the United States of America

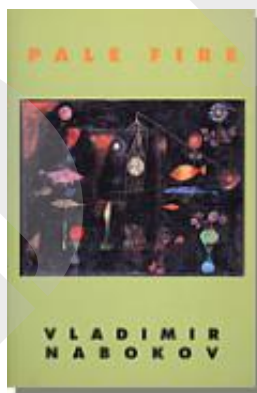
Binding: White wrappers. Pale green background with art of Paul Klee's *Fish Magic*

Description: This variant has no ISBN or bar code on the back cover.

¶ First printing, variant b, 1993

As variant a, except

Binding: Back cover has a UPC bar code for the ISBN



A35.12 First printing, variant a, 1993, cover, front

Description: Variant a does not have an ISBN or the bar code

A35.13

NEW AMERICAN EDITION (THE ARION PRESS)

¶ First printing, Mar-1994



A35.13 First printing, 1994, novel volume, binding, front



A35.13 First printing, 1994, novel volume, title page



A35.13 First printing, 1994, novel volume, copyright page

Collation: Novel vol.: [1–18]⁸ [19]⁴, 148 leaves, pp. [i–iv] [1–6] 7 [8] 9 [10] 11–25 [26–28] 29–70 [71–72] 73–284 [285–292]

Poem vol.: [1–3]⁸ [4]⁴ [5–6]⁸, 44 leaves, pp. [i–iv] 1–80 [81–85]

Title page: Novel vol.: *A Novel* by | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | PALE | FIRE | THE ARION PRESS | *San Francisco* MCMXCIV

Poem vol.: PALE FIRE | A poem in four cantos | from the novel of the same title by | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | THE ARION PRESS | San Francisco • 1994

Copyright page: Novel vol.: Copyright © 1962 by Véra Nabokov and Dmitri Nabokov. | Published by arrangement with Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

Poem vol.: \as novel vol.\

Colophon: Novel vol.: COLOPHON | *Pale Fire* is the forty-third publication of the Arion Press. The | book was designed and produced by Andrew Hoyem with the | assistance of Glenn Todd, Gerald Reddan, Lawrence G. Van | Velzer, Peggy Gotthold, Leif Erlandsson, Barbara Scarpellino, | and Stephanie Dal Porto. The type is Fridericus, composed in | Monotype by M & H Type, San Francisco. The paper is Somer- | set, an English mould-made sheet. The novel is accompanied | by an extra copy of the poem printed in the same manner but in | a small oblong format. The two-volume edition, limited to 200 | numbered copies for sale and 26 lettered copies hors de com- | merce, has been completed in the spring of 1994. This is copy: | \number or letter handwritten in pencil\ | \butterfly device\

Poem vol.: COLOPHON | This separate printing of the poem *Pale Fire*, | ostensibly written by the fictional character | John Shade in the novel of the same title, | provides a second copy for ease of reference | with the commentary on the poem prepared | by the fictional character Charles Kinbote, as | recommended in his foreword, and gives the | lineation for the eighty index cards of the | manuscript as described in the foreword and | commentary. It is published by the Arion | Press with the novel as part of a two-volume | edition, limited to 200 numbered copies for | sale and 26 lettered copies hors de commerce, | that was completed in the spring of 1994. | \at the bottom of the right-hand margin\ copy | \number or letter handwritten in pencil\

Typography/Paper: Type: Fridericus, Torino. Paper: English mould-made Somerset.

Binding: Both volumes in a slipcase of iridescent pale yellow cloth over boards. The slipcase has slots to hold the two differently-sized volumes. Label on spine: \gilt stamping on blue cloth with iridescent pale yellow sheen\ NABOKOV | PALE | FIRE | ARION PRESS.

Novel vol.: Blue cloth with iridescent pale yellow sheen over boards with white endpapers and headband. Top and bottom edges trimmed; front edge untrimmed. **Front cover:** \inset disk of iridescent yellow cloth with title in gilt stamping\ PALE FIRE. **Back cover:** \blank\. **Spine:** \gilt stamping\ NABOKOV | PALE | FIRE | ARION PRESS.

Poem vol.: Blue cloth with iridescent pale yellow sheen over boards with white endpapers with yellow rules, and headband. All edges trimmed.

Front cover: \inset disk of iridescent yellow cloth with title in gilt stamping\ PALE FIRE. **Back cover:** \blank\. **Spine:** \gilt stamping\ PALE | FIRE.

Contents: Novel vol.: [i–iv] blank, [1] half-title, [2] frontispiece, [3] title page, [4] copyright page, [5] dedication, [6] blank, 7 epigraph, [8] blank, 9 table of contents, [10] blank, 11–25 foreword, [26] blank, [27] poem section heading, [28] blank, 29–70 poem, [71] commentary section heading, [72] blank, 73–270 commentary, 271–284 index, [285] author note, [286] blank, [287] colophon, [288–292] blank.

Poem vol.: \15 yellow rules on each page\ [i–ii] blank, [iii] title page, [iv] copyright page, 1–80 poem, [81] colophon, [82–85] blank.



A35.13 First printing, 1994, novel volume, colophon



A35.13 First printing, 1994, poem volume, binding, front



A35.13 First printing, 1994, poem volume, title page



A35.13 First printing, 1994, poem volume, copyright page

A35.14 FIRST EXTRACTED EDITION (GINGKO PRESS)
¶ First printing, 10-Oct-2011



A35.14 First printing, 2011, case, front

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: none

Price: \$600.00

Press run: 226 copies according to the colophon

Description: This two-volume, slipcased, private press, limited edition was issued as 200 numbered copies for sale and 26 lettered copies hors de commerce. It is number 43 in the Arion Press catalog.

Works:

- 1) Pale Fire

Collation: (14.8 X 10.5 cm, 24.2 X 16.4 cm), 52, 48 pages

Title page: Pamphlet of the poem: \drawings of *Vanessa atalanta* butterfly wings bracketing the first line\ PALE FIRE | *A Poem in Four Cantos* | John Shade | GINGKO PRESS

Pamphlet of essays: PALE FIRE | \rule\ | REFLECTIONS | Brian Boyd | PALE FIRE | Poem and Pattern | 05–31 | R.S. Gwynn | “And if my private universe scans right”: | PALE FIRE and Its Creative Context | 33–44 | GINGKO PRESS

Colophon: Pamphlet of the poem: First Published in the United States of America, 2011 | First Edition | Gingko Press, Inc. | 1321 Fifth Street | Berkeley, CA 94710, USA | Phone (510) 898 1195 / (510) 898 1196 | email: books@gingkopress.com | www.gingkopress.com | ISBN: 978-1-58423-431-9 | Printed in China | ... | The poem “Pale fire” is reprinted from the novel *Pale fire* by | Vladimir Nabokov, c1962, Vintage Books. | This publication is a boxed set which includes a “first facsimile” | edition of *Pale fire*: a poem in four cantos by John Shade (Nabokov’s fictitious character); a | book of essays in a side pocket: *Pale fire* — reflections: *Pale Fire*, poem and pattern (by) Brian | Boyd (with) “And if my private universe scans right” [by] R.S. Gwynn; along with a set of | “facsimiles” of the “handwritten” index cards that John Shade used for composing the



A35.14 First printing, 2011, pamphlet of the poem, cover, front



A13.14 First printing, 2011, pamphlet of the poem, title page



A13.14 First printing, 2011, pamphlet of the poem, colophon



A35.14 First printing, 2011, pamphlet of essays, cover, front

poem. | ...

Pamphlet of essays: \as pamphlet of the poem\

Binding: Pamphlet of the poem: Saddle-stitched pamphlet of cream-white paper. **Front cover:** PALE FIRE | \drawing of cedar waxwing wings by Jean Holabird\ | John Shade. **Back cover:** \reverse image of bird wing\.

Pamphlet of essays: Saddle-stitched pamphlet with spine of blue-gray paper on the outside, red on the inside. **Front cover:** \White paper label, 5.5 X 3.6 cm with thick-and-thin double border\ PALE FIRE | \rule\ | REFLECTIONS.

Deck: 80 index cards, 14.8 X 10.5 cm, with rules on both sides, text on rectos only.

Covering: Black cloth-covered three-paneled folding case with inset for the index cards and pamphlet of the poem, and a sleeve for the pamphlet of the essays. **Front cover:** \all red stamping\ PALE FIRE | *A Poem in Four Cantos by John Shade* | VLADIMIR NABOKOV. **Inside cover:** \blind stamping\ PALE FIRE | *A Poem in Four Cantos by John Shade* | \label with drawing of swamp reeds\.

Spine: \all red stamping\ VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | \running down\ PALE FIRE | GINGKO | PRESS. Includes a single sheet of publisher's descriptive material lying on the back cover and all shrink-wrapped.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-1-58423-431-9

Price: \$35.00

Press run: 5000 copies according to the publisher

Additional Works: A booklet titled *Pale Fire: Reflections* with two essays: "Pale Fire: Poem and Pattern" by Brian Boyd; "'And if my private universe scans right': Pale Fire and Its Creative Context" by R.S. Gwynn. Also, illustrations by Jean Holabird: "Swamp Reeds", case front; "Vanessa atalanta", p. 5 of "Pale Fire" poem, and pp. 4 & 32 of "Reflections"; and "Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)", cover of "Pale fire" poem.

Works:

- 1) **Excerpt:** Pale Fire
 - Includes only the 999-line poem.



A13.14 First printing, 2011,
pamphlet of essays, title page

A35.15



A35.15 First printing, 2012,
cover, front

NEW BRITISH EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, 2012

Title page: VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | *Pale Fire* | \publisher's device\
PENGUIN | \rule\
CLASSICS

Copyright page: ... | Reissued in Penguin Classics 2011 | This edition
published in Penguin Classics 2012 | 001 | ... | ISBN: 978-0-141-19724-1 |
...

Binding: Pale gray paper over boards with black stamping

Covering: White dust jacket with pale blue borders and black and pale blue
lettering

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-141-19724-1

Series and Number: Penguin Classics, 13

Price: £20.00

Description: One of 22 hardcover volumes in a uniform set of Nabokov
editions published by Penguin Classics, an imprint of Penguin Books.

Works:

- 1) *Pale Fire*