

The Real Life of Sebastian Knight

A21

Nabokov's first novel in English, *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight*, was begun in Paris in December 1938. Boyd writes,

The decision to become an English writer, though it did not yet mean ceasing to write in Russian, was one of the most difficult he had ever made. True, the first fairy tales his mother read to him were English, as were the first books he had tottered through himself. His family had all been enthusiastic Anglophiles, he had studied at Cambridge, he had been accurately described in his Sirin role as the most Western of all Russian writers. But on the other hand he had struggled against all the odds to become a great *Russian* writer (VNTRY 494–95).

But the question then, with Germany's aggressions rising and the Russian emigration at risk was, as Boyd continues, "Could he become an English writer?" Nabokov felt he could. And he was aiming to enter the novel into a British literary competition that had an entry deadline of the end of January 1939. He finished the work in time. Boyd doesn't record whether he placed in the competition (VNTRY 496).

Nabokov had asked his friend, Lucie Léon Noel, to go over the novel with him line by line and check it for infelicities that might make it sound foreign or like a translation (VNTRY 503). Of course, Nabokov wanted and needed (his finances were very low) to do more than enter a contest; he wanted to get the novel published. But through 1939 he couldn't find a publisher in England or America who would take it on (VNTRY 511). Not until he reached the U.S. in 1940 and had the help of Edmund Wilson and Harry Levin did a publisher emerge who would put out *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight*. James Laughlin, who had just started New Directions, accepted the book in July, 1941 (VNTAY 33). It was released the day before the Pearl Harbor attack. It didn't sell well.

The novel was published four years later in England and then it sat fallow until, in the wake of the *Lolita* storm, it was reissued by New Directions in 1959. Nabokov's first foray into a long work in English has, of course, been in print ever since.

Edition Summary

- A21.1** *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* FIRST EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS), 6-Dec-1941, 5 issues
A21.2 *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* FIRST BRITISH EDITION (EDITIONS POETRY), Dec-1945, 2 issues
A21.3 *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* NEW AMERICAN EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS), 27-Aug-1959, 12 issues
A21.4 *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* NEW BRITISH EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON), 16-Sep-1960, 1 issue
A21.5 *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PENGUIN), 26-Nov-1964, 5 issues
A21.6 *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* NEW AMERICAN EDITION (VINTAGE), Feb-1992, 4 issues
A21.7 *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* NEW BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PENGUIN), 29-Mar-2001, 2 issues
A21.8 *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* NEW BRITISH EDITION (PENGUIN), 2012, 1 issue

Vladimir Nabokov: A Descriptive Bibliography, Revised

The Real Life of Sebastian Knight

A21.1

FIRST EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS)

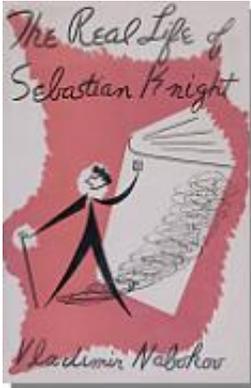
¶ First printing, issue a, 6-Dec-1941

POINTS

The binding of issue a is a rough burlap red cloth; issue b is a smooth red cloth.

The paper labels of issue a's front cover and spine are of the small type only; issue b's are of both types, small and large.

The dust jacket of issue a spells the author's name "Nabokov" and the dj back flap has "Other New Directions Books"; issue b comes two ways: as issue a or with "Nabokoff" and "NEW DIRECTIONS FICTION".



A21.1 First printing, issue a, 1941, cover, front



A21.1 First printing, issue a, 1941, title page

Collation: (21.4 X 13.9 cm), [1–13]⁸, 104 leaves, pp. [i–ii] [1–4] 5–205 [206]

Title page: THE REAL LIFE OF | SEBASTIAN KNIGHT | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | \publisher's device of man astride a sitting animal within decorative leaf border\ | NEW DIRECTIONS • NORFOLK, CONN.

Copyright page: COPYRIGHT BY NEW DIRECTIONS, 1941

Colophon: \leaf design\ | FIFTEEN HUNDRED COPIES PRINTED | IN NOVEMBER MCMXLI, BY | THE WALPOLE PRINTING OFFICE | MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK | \leaf design\

Binding: Woven burlap red cloth over boards with white endpapers. All edges trimmed. **Front cover:** \white label, 6.1 X 5.8 cm, with decorative leaf border, 5.0 X 4.5 cm\ The Real Life | of Sebastian | Knight ... By \2.7 cm wide\ | V. NABOKOV. **Back cover:** \blank\ **Spine:** \white label running down, 12.7 X 1.4 cm\ \leaf design\ The Real Life of Sebastian Knight \7.4 cm long\ \leaf design, 11.8 cm leaf-to-leaf length\.

Covering: Dust jacket of cream colored paper, with artwork by Alvin Lustig.

Front cover: \stylized man, one arm upraised, the other with a cane, in front of whirlwind and book over reddish-pink background\ The Real Life of \script\ | Sebastian Knight \script\ | Vladimir Nabokov \script\ **Back cover:** SOME NEW DIRECTIONS BOOKS | \listing of six books\ | NEW DIRECTIONS - Norfolk, Connecticut. **Spine:** \script, running down spine\ The Real Life of Sebastian Knight - Nabokov. **Front flap:** The Real Life of Sebastian Knight | by Vladimir Nabokov | \description of book\ | continued on back flap | \$2.50. **Back flap:** \continuation of description\ | Other New Directions Books | \publisher's ads for two books\.

Contents: [i–ii] blank, [1] title page, [2] copyright page, [3] fly-title, [4] blank, 5–205 text, [206] colophon

Price: \$2.50

Press run: 749 copies

Description: The first printing of the first edition of *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* was issued in at least five possible combinations of bindings, labels, and dust jackets. (There may be more but they haven't yet turned up.) They come in a triplet of pairs.

- **BINDINGS: Rough cloth and smooth cloth.** Well-known and very clear differences, here shown with labels and their measurements.
- **LABELS:** For convenience, let's call them **small labels and large labels**. The different front cover labels are the same size, 6.1 X 5.8 cm. The leafy-like borders are also the same size, 5.0 X 4.5 cm. But the text lines are different lengths: what we call the small labels are about 2.7 cm. long, the large labels are about 3.0 cm. The different spine labels are different sizes: 12.7 X 1.4 cm. for the small and 13.1 X 1.4 cm. for the long. The text lines are also different lengths: 7.4 cm and 8.4 cm. In fact, a close examination shows that the fonts used on the two sets of labels are slightly different. In particular, look at each "a", "e", "i", "g", "R", and "s".
- **DUST JACKETS: "Nabokov" spelling and "Nabokoff" spelling.** One variant dust jacket has the author's name spelled "Nabokov" throughout, his first name spelled "Vladimir" at the top of the front flap, and the small heading "Other New Directions Books" on the back flap. The other variant has "Nabokoff" throughout, his first name misspelled "Valdimir" on the front flap, and the small heading on the



A21.1 First printing, issue a, 1941, binding, front



A21.1 First printing, issue a, 1941, copyright page



A21.1 First printing, issue a, 1941, colophon



Detail of front cover label with short line

back flap is “NEW DIRECTIONS FICTION”.

We know from the publisher’s records that New Directions printed 1500 copies of the novel in 1941, but bound only 749 for distribution at that time. The balance of the printing was put into a warehouse and only bound and issued for sale in 1945. That is why all binding variations are exactly the same internally with VN’s name spelled “Nabokov” on the title page. All evidence points to the first issue being bound in the rough red cloth and the second being in the smooth red cloth.

All examined paper labels spell the author as “Nabokov”. But the first issue has only the small labels. The second issue has a mixture of small and large labels. In addition, it appears that the initial binding in the rough cloth is always wrapped with a “Nabokov” dust jacket. But only in the second binding in smooth cloth does the spelling “Nabokoff” appear on some dust jackets.

What does this mean? The fact that Nabokov’s name is often spelled in English with an “ff” before the 1940s (on the 1936 John Long *Camera Obscura* and the 1937 John Long *Despair* as “Nabokoff-Sirin”, on the 1938 Bobbs-Merrill *Laughter in the Dark* as “Nabokoff”) and consistently with a “v” beginning sometime in the 1940s implies that the first designed and printed dust jacket was probably the one with the “ff” and the misspelled first name on the front flap. But the first issued dust jacket was the one with the “v”. Did the publisher first have the “ff” jacket printed, pick up on the mistake, put it aside, redesign and print the “v” jacket, and use it for the first issue? And then during the second issue four years later, did the publisher instruct the binder to use the “ff” and the “v” jackets indiscriminately? That’s one possibility.

In summary, these are the observed combinations:

- Rough cloth, small labels, “Nabokov” author, (with a stamped publication date on some copies).
- Smooth cloth, small labels, “Nabokov” author.
- Smooth cloth, small labels, “Nabokoff” author.
- Smooth cloth, large labels, “Nabokov” author.
- Smooth cloth, large labels, “Nabokoff” author.

These are the priorities of issuance:

- Small labels over large.
- “Nabokov” over “Nabokoff”.

And so, putting them all together, we reach these conclusions:

Original printing: 1500 copies printed by the Walpole Printing Office, Mount Vernon, NY in November 1941.

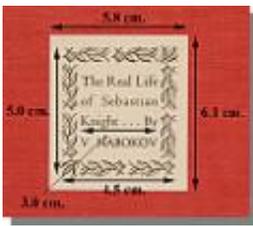
Issue a: December 1941.

- Binding — 749 copies in red, rough burlap cloth.
- Labels — small.
- Dust jacket — author’s name spelled “Nabokov”.
- (Publication date stamp on a small number of review copies.)

Issue b: April 1945. Binding of all variants is 751 copies in smooth red cloth.

- **Variant a:**
 - Labels — small.
 - Dust jacket — author’s name spelled “Nabokov”.
- **Variant b:**
 - Labels — small.
 - Dust jacket — author’s name spelled “Nabokoff”.
- **Variant c:**
 - Labels — large.
 - Dust jacket — author’s name spelled “Nabokov”.
- **Variant d:**
 - Labels — large.
 - Dust jacket — author’s name spelled “Nabokoff”.

Preview copies—stamped as such with a publication date of 12-Dec-1941 on the front free endpaper—are identical to the first issue. Unfortunately,



Detail of front cover label with long line



Detail of short line on front cover label



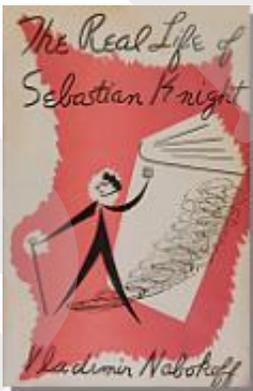
Detail of long line on front cover label

POINTS

Issue b comes in four variants, all with the smooth cloth binding but with different labels and different dust jackets.



A21.1 First printing, issue b, variant a, 1945, binding, front



A21.1 First printing, issue b, variant b, 1945, cover, front

no such preview copies I examined still possessed their dust jackets, if they ever had them.

Vera Nabokov remembered that of the two issues, one had a dust jacket and the other not, though she wasn't able to specify which. James Laughlin, the publisher of New Directions, however, said that this was unlikely and that both probably were issued with dust jackets. Since I have examined several copies of issue a with the dust jacket, I must assume that Laughlin was correct.

The colophon states 1500 copies were printed. Publisher records show that 751 copies were bound as issue b (probably all variants). The balance of 749 copies was probably bound as issue a.

In January 1951, New Directions received 298 copies of the novel from Britain. They were placed in the New Directions warehouse. They may have been the 1945 Editions Poetry edition, either variant. Or they may have been copies from the first American edition sent to Britain for distribution there with the unsold balance being returned.

The book was designed by Peter Beilenson.

Works:

1) The Real Life of Sebastian Knight

¶ First printing, issue b, variant a, Apr-1945

As issue a, except

Binding: Smooth red cloth over boards with small labels.

Press run: For all issue b variants, 751 copies

Description: Issue b, variant a:

- Bound in smooth red cloth
- Small labels
- The author's name on the dust jacket is "Nabokov"

¶ First printing, issue b, variant b, Apr-1945

As issue b, variant a, except

Covering: Front cover, spine, both flaps: \The author's name is, in all cases, spelled "Nabokoff". **Back flap:** \continuation of book blurb\ | NEW DIRECTIONS FICTION | \blurbs for two books\.

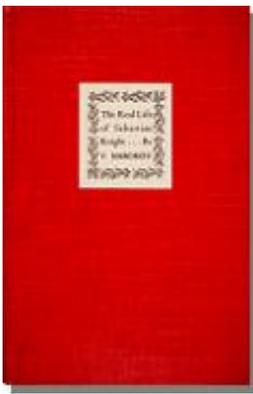
Description: Issue b, variant b:

- Bound in smooth red cloth
- Small labels
- The author's name on the dust jacket is "Nabokoff"

¶ First printing, issue b, variant c, Apr-1945

As issue b, variant a, except

Binding: Front cover: \white label, 6.1 X 5.8 cm, with decorative leaf border, 5.0 X 4.5 cm\ The Real Life | of Sebastian | Knight ... By \3.0 cm wide\ | V. NABOKOV. **Back cover:** \blank\. **Spine:** \white label running



A21.1 First printing, issue b, variant c, 1945, binding, front

down, 13.1 X 1.4 cm \leaf design\ The Real Life of Sebastian Knight \8.4 cm long\ \leaf design, 12.6 cm leaf-to-leaf length\.

Covering: *Front cover, spine, both flaps:* \The author’s name is, in all cases, spelled “Nabokov”. **Back flap:** \continuation of book blurb\ | Other New Directions Books | \blurbs for two books\.

Description: Issue b, variant c:

- Bound in smooth red cloth
- Large labels
- The author’s name on the dust jacket is “Nabokov”

¶ First printing, issue b, variant d, Apr-1945

As issue b variant c, except

Covering: *Front cover, spine, both flaps:* \The author’s name is, in all cases, spelled “Nabokoff”. **Back flap:** \continuation of book blurb\ | NEW DIRECTIONS FICTION | \blurbs for two books\.

Description: Issue b, variant d:

- Bound in smooth red cloth
- Large labels
- The author’s name on the dust jacket is “Nabokoff”

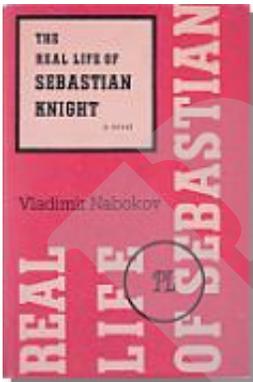
A21.2

FIRST BRITISH EDITION (EDITIONS POETRY)

¶ First printing, issue a, Dec-1945

POINTS

The only differences between the two issues are in the dust jackets.



A21.2 First printing, issue a, 1945, cover, front

Collation: (18.5 X 11.8 cm), [A]⁸ B–H⁸ [J–K]⁸ L¹⁰ [M]¹, pp. [1–4] 5–181 [182]

Title page: THE REAL LIFE | OF | SEBASTIAN KNIGHT | BY | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | PL | EDITIONS POETRY LONDON

Copyright page: *All rights reserved | First published in 1945 by | PL | Editions Poetry London | 26 Manchester Square London | Printed in Great Britain by | The Shenval Press | London and Hertford | Produced in Complete Conformity with | the Authorised Economy Standards*

Binding: Plum cloth over boards with white endpapers. All edges trimmed.

Front and back covers: \blank\ **Spine:** \gilt stamping running across, all within scrollwork border\ The | Real | Life | of | Sebastian | Knight | by | Vladimir | Nabokov

Covering: Dust jacket of thin tan paper. **Front cover:** \five lines within black border, tan background\ THE | REAL LIFE OF | SEBASTIAN | KNIGHT | a novel | \over red background with “REAL | LIFE | OF SEBASTIAN” running up in tan\ Vladimir Nabokov | \“PL” within black circle. **Back cover:** \list of Editions Poetry London books on tan background\ **Spine:** \tan letters over tan background, running down\ THE REAL LIFE OF SEBASTIAN KNIGHT | \running across\ PL. **Front flap:** \title, author, text about the novel and author, price\ **Back flap:** \Quotation from Edmund Wilson\

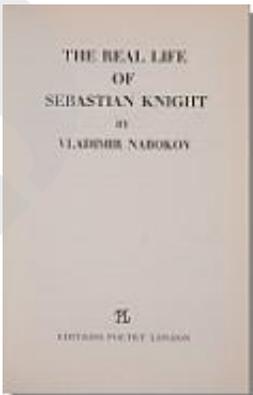
Contents: [1] half-title, [2] blank, [3] title page, [4] copyright page, 5–181 text, [182] blank

Price: 8s. 6d.

Description: There is uncertain evidence that this edition may have been issued instead in Mar-1946.

Works:

- 1) The Real Life of Sebastian Knight



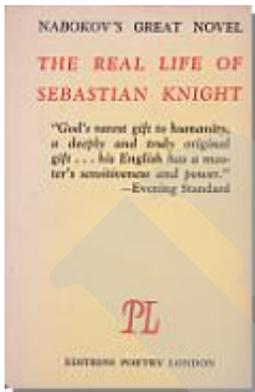
A21.2 First printing, issue a, 1945, title page



A21.2 First printing, issue a, 1945, copyright page



A21.2 First printing, issue a, 1945, copyright page



A21.2 First printing, issue b, cover, front

¶ First printing, issue b, unknown date

Covering: Yellow dust jacket. **Front cover:** NABOKOV'S GREAT NOVEL | *THE REAL LIFE OF SEBASTIAN KNIGHT* | quote from the Evening Standard | PL | EDITIONS POETRY LONDON. **Back cover:** list of other books from Editions Poetry London. **Spine:** running down THE REAL LIFE OF SEBASTIAN KNIGHT | within a circle PL. **Front flap:** title, description, price. **Back flap:** title, author, five quotations, price

A21.3 NEW AMERICAN EDITION (NEW DIRECTIONS)

¶ First printing, 27-Aug-1959

As first edition, except

Collation: (21.6 X 13.9 cm), [1-7]¹⁶, 112 leaves, pp. [i-vi] vii-xv [xvi] [3-4] 5-205 [206-210]

Title page: All text and publisher's device in black

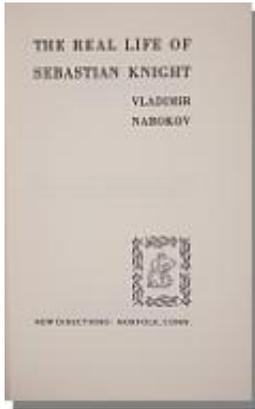
Copyright page: COPYRIGHT BY NEW DIRECTIONS, 1941 | COPYRIGHT © 1959 BY NEW DIRECTIONS | Library of Congress Catalog Card number: 59-9489 | The author wishes to acknowledge his debt to Mme. Lucy Léon and | to Professor Agnes Perkins of Wellesley College, both of whom read | and emended *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* in manuscript. | New Directions Books are published at | Norfolk, Connecticut, by James Laughlin. | New York Office — 333 Sixth Avenue (14)



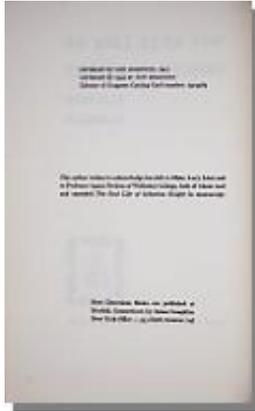
A21.3 First printing, 1959,

Colophon: None

cover, front



A21.3 First printing, 1959, title page



A21.3 First printing, 1959, copyright page



A21.3 Third printing, cover, front

Binding: Light blue cloth over boards with silver and blue stamping. White endpapers. All edges trimmed.

Covering: White dust jacket with reddish-gray art of man in fedora, smoking a pipe, by Michael Train

Contents: [i] half-title, [ii] blank, [iii] title page, [iv] copyright page, [v] "INTRODUCTION", [vi] blank, [vii–xv] introduction, xvi introduction, [3] fly-title, [4] blank, 5–205 text, [206–210] blank

Price: \$3.50

Press run: 5000+

Description: Includes an introduction by Conrad Brenner

¶ Second printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | SECOND PRINTING | ...

Covering: Bottom of the dust jacket front flap: ... | SECOND PRINTING

¶ Third printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Collation: (20.3 X 13.5 cm)

Copyright page: ... | ISBN: 0-8112-0327-1 | ... | THIRD PRINTING

Binding: Blue cloth over boards with black stamping

Covering: Black and white version of the first printing dust jacket artwork

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-8112-0327-1

Price: \$9.25

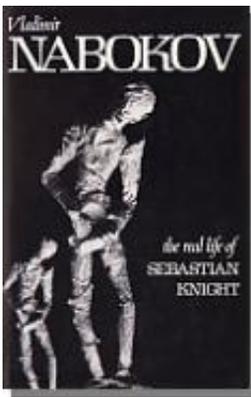
¶ New first printing, 24-Mar-1977

As first printing, except

Collation: (20.1 X 13.1 cm), 224 pages

Copyright page: Copyright © 1941, 1959 by New Directions | Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 59-9489 | ISBN: 0-8112-0327-1 | ISBN: 0-8112-0644-0 pbk. | ... | First published clothbound by New Directions in 1959 and as | New Directions Paperbook 432 in 1977. | ... | 333 Sixth Avenue, New York 10014

Colophon: \none\



A21.3 New first printing, 1977, cover, front

Binding: White wrappers with cover artwork, "Plastic Poem 1976" by Kitasono Katue, a photo of two human figures made of newspaper against a black background

Covering: \none\

Contents: ... [207-208] publisher's ads, ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-8112-0644-0

Series and Number: New Directions Paperbook, NDP432

Price: \$2.45

Press run: 7980 copies

Description: Book designed by Gertrude Huston

¶ New second printing, unknown date

As new first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 80 Eighth Avenue, New York 10011 | SECOND PRINTING

Binding: Back cover: NOVEL/ISBN 0-8112-0644-0 SECOND PRINTING | ... | A NEW DIRECTIONS PAPERBOOK NDP432 \$3.95

Price: \$3.95

¶ New third printing, unknown date

Unexamined

¶ New fourth printing, variant a, unknown date

As new third printing, except

Copyright page: Copyright 1941 by New Directions; copyright © renewed 1968 by | Vladimir Nabokov; now controlled by Article 3b Trust under the Will of | Vladimir Nabokov, Vera Nabokov and Dmitri Nabokov, sole Trustees. | ... | FOURTH PRINTING

Price: \$16.00

¶ New fourth printing, variant b, unknown date

As new second printing, except

Copyright page: ... | FOURTH PRINTING

Binding: Back cover: NOVEL FOURTH PRINTING | ... | ISBN FPT 0-8112-0644-0 >>\$5.95

Price: \$5.95

¶ New fifth printing, unknown date

As new fourth printing, variant b, except

Copyright page: ... | FIFTH PRINTING

Binding: Back cover: NOVEL FIFTH PRINTING | ... | FPT ISBN 0-8112-0644-0 >>\$7.95

Price: \$7.95

¶ New sixth printing, unknown date

As new fifth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | SIXTH PRINTING

Binding: Back cover: NOVEL SIXTH PRINTING | ... | A NEW DIRECTIONS PAPERBOOK | ISBN 0-8112-0644-0 | NDP432 | FPT >>\$8.95 | CAN >\$10.95 | \bar code\

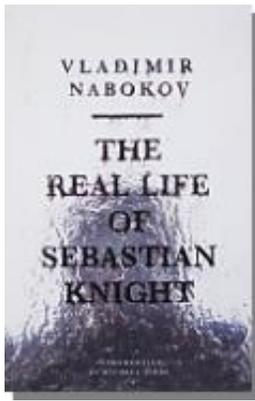
Price: \$8.95/\$10.95

¶ New seventh printing, unknown date

As new sixth printing, except

Copyright page: ... | SEVENTH PRINTING

Binding: Back cover: NOVEL SEVENTH PRINTING | ...



A21.3 Unstated printing, 2008, cover, front

¶ Unstated printing, 2008

Collation: (20.3 X 13.1 cm), 224 pages

Title page: THE REAL | LIFE OF | SEBASTIAN | KNIGHT | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | INTRODUCTION BY MICHAEL DIRDA | \publisher's device\ NEW DIRECTIONS BOOK

Copyright page: ... | ... reissued (NDP1107) with | an Introduction by Michael Dirda in 2008. | ... | ISBN 978-0-8112-1750-7 (alk. paper) | ...

Binding: White wrappers with cover art of indistinct head, designed by Brigitta Bungard.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-8112-1750-7

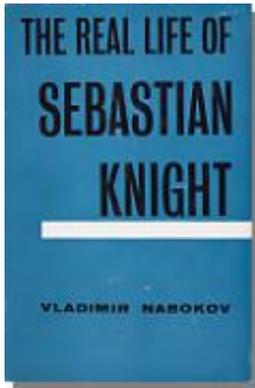
Series and Number: NDP1107

Price: \$12.95

A21.4

NEW BRITISH EDITION (WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON)

¶ First printing, 16-Sep-1960



A21.4 First printing, 1960, cover, front

Collation: (19.6 X 12.9 cm), [1-6]¹⁶, 96 leaves, pp. [1-4] 5-192

Title page: *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* | A novel by | VLADIMIR NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD AND NICOLSON | 20 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1

Copyright page: © 1941 by New Directions | © 1959 by New Directions | First published in Great Britain in 1941 | This edition first published in 1960 | PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN | IN 11-ON-13 POINT BASKERVILLE | BY THE SHENVAL PRESS | LONDON, HERTFORD AND HARLOW | 17/6720

Binding: Dark brown cloth over boards. White endpapers. All edges trimmed. **Front and back covers:** \blank\. **Spine:** \silver stamping, running across\ THE REAL | LIFE OF | SEBASTIAN | KNIGHT | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD | & NICOLSON

Covering: White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \deep aqua background\ THE REAL LIFE OF | SEBASTIAN | KNIGHT | \very thick white rule\ | VLADIMIR NABOKOV. **Back cover:** \three other books by Nabokov, with quotes\. **Spine:** \deep aqua background\ THE REAL | LIFE OF | SEBASTIAN | KNIGHT | VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | WEIDENFELD | & NICOLSON. **Front flap:** \title\ | \description\ | *Jacket designed by Eric Ayers* | 15s net. **Back flap:** \photo of Nabokov\ | \biographical note\ | WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON | 17/6720

Contents: [1] half-title, [2] other titles list, [3] title page, [4] copyright page, 5-192 text

Price: 15s

Works:

- 1) The Real Life of Sebastian Knight



A21.4 First printing, 1960, title page

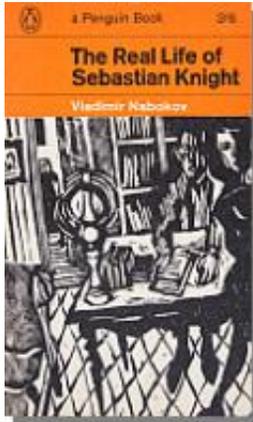


A21.4 First printing, 1960,

A21.5

FIRST BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, 26-Nov-1964

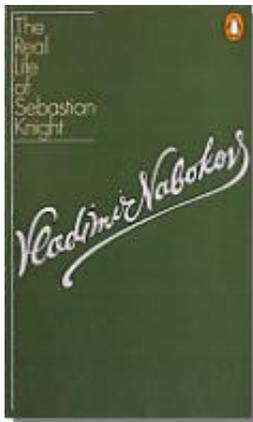


A21.5 First printing, 1964, cover, front

Collation: (18.1 X 11.1 cm), pp. [1–4] 5–172 [173–176]**Title page:** Vladimir Nabokov | The Real Life | of Sebastian Knight | \publisher's device\ | Penguin Books**Copyright page:** ... | Published in Penguin Books 1964 | ...**Binding:** White wrappers. **Front cover:** \orange background\ \publisher's device\ a Penguin Book 3/6 | \rule\ | The Real Life of | Sebastian Knight | \rule\ | \white\ Vladimir Nabokov | \woodcut of two figures at a table examining papers\ **Back cover:** \orange background\ ... | Cover woodcut by Morton Dimonstein | ... **Spine:** \orange background\ \white, running down\ Vladimir Nabokov \black\ The Real Life of Sebastian Knight | \running across\ \publisher's device\ | 2199**Series and Number:** 2199**Price:** 3/6**Works:**

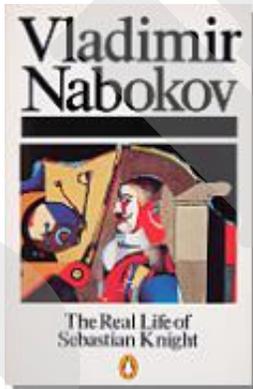
1) The Real Life of Sebastian Knight

¶ Second printing, 1971

*As first printing, except***Collation:** (18.2 X 11.1 cm)**Title page:** Vladimir Nabokov | The Real Life | of Sebastian Knight | Penguin Books**Copyright page:** ... | Published in Penguin Books 1964 | Reissued 1971 | ...**Binding:** White wrappers. **Front cover:** \dark green background, pale blue vertical rule down left side, publisher's device in upper-right\ \pale blue rule\ | \six lines in pale tan\ The | Real | Life | of | Sebastian | Knight | \pale blue rule\ | \pale blue script running diagonally up\ Vladimir Nabokov.**Back cover:** ... | Cover design by John Gorham | ... | United Kingdom 30p | ... | ISBN 0 14 | 00.2199 X. **Spine:** \author, title, ISBN, publisher's device**ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN:** 0-14-002199-X**Price:** 30p

A21.5 Second printing, 1971, cover, front

¶ Third printing, 1982

*As second printing, except***Collation:** (19.2 X 12.9 cm), 176 pages**Copyright page:** ... | Reprinted 1971, 1982 | ...**Binding:** White wrappers. **Front cover:** Vladimir | Nabokov | \thick rule\ | \detail from "The Musical Visit" by Richard Lindner\ | The Real Life of | Sebastian Knight | \publisher's device\ **Back cover:** ... | The cover, designed by Carroll & Dempsey, ... | ... | U.K. £1.95 | ISBN 0 14 | 00.2199 X. **Spine:** \author, title, ISBN, publisher's device**Price:** £1.95

A21.5 Third printing, 1982, cover, front

¶ Fourth (stated third) printing, 1982

*As first printing, except***Collation:** (19.2 X 12.9 cm)**Copyright page:** ... | Published in Penguin Books 1964 | 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 | ...**Binding:** White dust jacket. **Front cover:** \self-portrait by Richard Eurich\.**ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN:** 0-14-009799-6**Series and Number:** Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics



A21.5 Fourth (stated third) printing, 1982, cover, front



A21.5 Fifth printing, 1995, cover, front

Price: £4.50

¶ Fifth printing, 1995

As fourth printing, except

Title page: Vladimir Nabokov | The Real Life | of Sebastian Knight |
Afterword by John Lanchester | \publisher's device\ | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1964 | Reprinted with an
Afterword by | John Lanchester 1995 | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-018820-7

Price: £6.99

A21.6

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

¶ First printing, Feb-1992



A21.6 First printing, 1992, cover, front

Collation: (20.9 X 13.2), 224 pages

Title page: The Real Life of | Sebastian Knight | Vladimir Nabokov | Vintage
International | Vintage Books | A Division of Random House, Inc. | New
York

Copyright page: \device\ | FIRST VINTAGE INTERNATIONAL EDITION,
FEBRUARY 1992 | Copyright 1941 by Vladimur [sic] Nabokov | ... |
ISBN 0-679-72726-4 | ... | 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Binding: White wrappers with pale yellow background. **Front cover:** \photo
by Barnaby Hall of seated man burning a piece of paper\. **Back cover:** ... |
Art direction: Susan Mitchell | Design: Marc J. Cohen | Photography:
Barnaby Hall | ...

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-679-72726-4

Series and Number: Vintage International

Price: \$10.00

Description: The typesetting of the 1941 New Directions edition, A21.1,
spawned one further edition, A21.3.

Nabokov's corrections of that typesetting were incorporated into the text of this edition and published for the first time. (The page numbers of previous editions using this typesetting do not align exactly with this edition. Page numbers in this edition are two less than in the previous ones.):

- p. 87, line 4 – changed “beechwood” to “beech-wood”.
- p. 114, line 28 – changed “langour” to “languor”.
- p. 128, line 23 – changed “And” to “And”.
- p. 136, line 19 – changed “midgets” to “midges”.
- p. 155, line 17 – changed “vous ca!” to “vous ça!”.
- p. 177, line 31 – changed “every one” to “everyone”.
- p. 199, line 30 – changed “coin. I'll” to “coin. ‘I’ll”.

Works:

1) The Real Life of Sebastian Knight

¶ Eleventh printing, unknown date

As first printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11

Price: \$13.95

¶ Twelfth printing, 2009

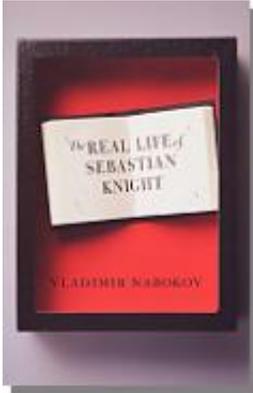
As eleventh printing, except

Copyright page: ... | 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \art of a specimen box with an open book, on the pages of which is printed the title, pinned to the red background, and the author's name below, by Sam Potts, cover photograph by Alison Gootee\.

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-679-72726-2

Price: \$15.00



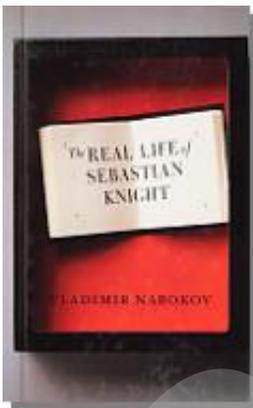
A21.6 Twelfth printing, 2009, cover, front

¶ Library printing, unknown date, distributed by Paw Prints

As twelfth printing, except

Binding: Pictorial boards. **Back cover:** \bottom fifth of the back cover has information about Paw Prints instead of Vintage\. **Spine:** \no publisher information\

Description: This binding in pictorial boards was produced for the library market. The 384 internal pages are exactly the same as for the twelfth printing, 2009. But the binding has the differences noted above.



A21.6 Library printing, cover, front

A21.7

NEW BRITISH WRAPPERS EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, 29-Mar-2001

Unexamined

Collation: (19.7 X 12.7 cm), 192 pages

Title page: Vladimir Nabokov | The Real Life | of Sebastian Knight |
Afterword by John Lanchester | \publisher's device\ | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: ... | Published in Penguin Books 1964 | Reprinted with an
Afterword by John Lanchester 1995 | Reprinted in Penguin Classics 2001
| 1 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** \photo of overhead view of stairs by Robert Greshoff\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 0-14-118599-6

Series and Number: Penguin Classics

Description: This edition was in its 13th printing in 2009 with ISBN 978-0-14-118599-6 at £10.99.



A21.7 First printing, 2001, cover, front

¶ Twelfth (stated) printing, 11-Mar-2011

Collation: (19.6 X 12.8 cm), 192 pages

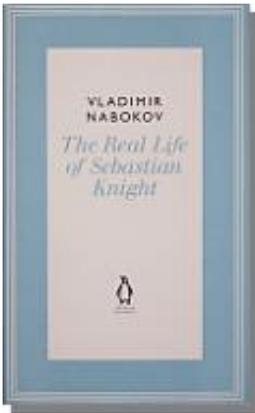
Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | *The Real Life of* | *Sebastian Knight* |
\publisher's device\ | PENGUIN BOOKS

Copyright page: PENGUIN CLASSICS | ... | Reissued in Penguin Classics



A21.7 Twelfth (stated) printing, 2011, cover, front

A21.8



A21.8 First printing, 2012, cover, front

2011 | 12 | ... | 978-0-141-18599-6 | ...

Binding: White wrappers. **Front cover:** art by Sam Weber of supine chess knight with curls of black smoke on a background of a pattern of knights\

ISBN/ISBN-13/SBN: 978-0-141-18599-6

Series and Number: Penguin Classics/Modern Classics

Price: £12.00

NEW BRITISH EDITION (PENGUIN)

¶ First printing, 2012

Collation: (19.1 X 11.7 cm), 256 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* | \publisher's device\ | PENGUIN | \rule\ | CLASSICS

Copyright page: PENGUIN CLASSICS | ... | This edition published in Penguin Classics 2012 | 001 | ... | ISBN: 978-0-141-19699-2 | ...

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: 978-0-141-19699-2

Series and Number: Penguin Classics, 10

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) The Real Life of Sebastian Knight