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 (Perseus 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),
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A35.15 Pale Fire</strong> New British edition (Penguin), 2012, 1 issue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pale Fire

**First edition (G.P. Putnam’s Sons)**

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


**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: 62-7357 | 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.


**Price:** $5.00

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

**Works:**

1) Pale Fire

**POINTS**

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

**Second printing, unknown date**

- As first printing, except

**Copyright page:** … | SECOND IMPRESSION
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


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 printing, 1962, cover, front
Larry Carter | 21s net. **Back flap:** continuation of book description, photo of Nabokov by Horst Tappe, information about Nabokov. |


**Price:** 21s

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† **Second printing, Nov-1962**

*As first printing, except*

**Copyright page:** … | Second impression, 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.

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**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** Second printing, 1966, cover, front

**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

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**A35.4**

**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


**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

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**A35.5**

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


**Series and Number:** 425-02613-150

**Price:** $1.50

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**Tenth printing, 1975**

*As ninth printing, except*

**Copyright page:** … | Berkley Medallion Edition, TENTH PRINTING, 1975

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**Eleventh printing, unknown date**

*As tenth printing, except*

**Copyright page:** … | ELEVENTH PRINTING

**Series and Number:** T3172

**Price:** $1.95

---

**Twelfth printing, unknown date**

*As eleventh printing, except*

**Copyright page:** … | SBN 425-03784-3 | … | TWENTIETH PRINTING


**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.

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**Thirteenth printing, unknown date**

*As twelfth printing, except*

**Copyright page:** … | TWENTY-FIRST PRINTING

**Description:** See the description of the twelfth printing.
On the copyright page, variant a gives the printing date, variant b doesn’t.

**Collation:** (17.9 X 10.5 cm), 224 pages

**Title page:** `script` Vladimir Nabokov | PALE FIRE | `publisher’s device` | BERKLEY BOOKS, NEW YORK


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


Price: $2.95

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**Fourteenth printing, variant a, Apr-1981**


Price: $2.95

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**Fourteenth printing, variant b, unknown date**

*As fourteenth printing, variant a, except*

**Copyright page:** … | Fourteenth Printing | …

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**Fifteenth printing, Dec-1982**

*As fourteenth printing, variant a, except*

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


Price: $3.50

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**Sixteenth printing, Apr-1984**

*As sixteenth printing, except*

**Copyright page:** … | Sixteenth printing / April 1984 | …

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**Seventeenth printing, Nov-1985**

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


---

**Eighteenth printing, unknown date**
As seventeenth printing, except

Copyright page: … | 20 19 18 | …

Price: $3.95

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First German edition (Rowohlt)

First printing, 1968

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.

---

New British wrappers edition (Penguin)

First printing, Oct-1973

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


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
Third printing, 1985

As second printing, except

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

Copyright page: … | Reprinted 1981, 1985 | …


Series and Number: Penguin Modern Classics

Price: £3.95

Fourth printing, 1987

As third printing, except


Price: £4.95

Fifth printing, 1988

As third printing, except


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


Series and Number: Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics
Price: £5.99
Description: Includes “A Bolt from the Blue”, an essay by Mary McCarthy
**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 Thirty-second printing, 2009, cover, front

A35.10 First printing, 1992, cover, front

NEW BRITISH EDITION (EVERMAN’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


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

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


Series and Number: Everyman’s Library, 67

Price: £8.99


Works:

1) Pale Fire

New printing, unknown date

Collation: (20.5 X 12.3 cm), 272 pages

Title page: VLADIMIR NABOKOV | fancy gray 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 New printing, cover, front

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.

A35.10 Special printing, cover, front

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

Series and Number: A Millennium Project
Price: None

A35.11 First printing, 1992, cover, front

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.

Series and Number: Everyman’s Library, 67
Price: $17.00


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 | Pale Fire | with an Introduction by | Richard Rorty | EVERYMAN’S LIBRARY | Alfred A. Knopf New York Toronto


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


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 | PALE FIRE | WITH AN INTRODUCTION | BY RICHARD RORTY | EVERYMAN’S LIBRARY | Alfred A. Knopf New York London Toronto

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)

Price: $19.00

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 | 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

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

NEW AMERICAN EDITION (THE ARION PRESS)
¶ First printing, Mar-1994


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 Somerset, 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 commerce, 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


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.


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
Pamphlet of essays: Saddle-stitched pamphlet of cream-white paper. 


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.


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.
NEW BRITISH EDITION (PENGUIN)

First printing, 2012

Title page: VLADIMIR | NABOKOV | Pale Fire | publisher’s device | PENGUIN | rule | CLASSICS


Binding: Pale gray paper over boards with black stamping

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


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

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(Draft of 13 Jun 2013)