

Slightly Foxed

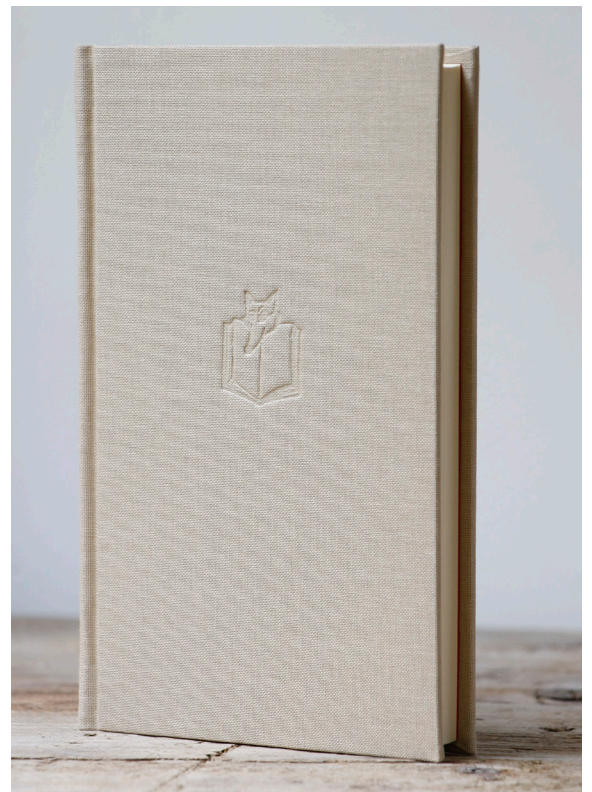
These limited and numbered pocket editions of 2,000 copies are irresistibly collectable. Printed by our craftsmen printers Smith Settle in Yorkshire, each copy is bound in cloth and comes complete with coloured endpapers, silk head- and tailband and ribbon marker.

No. 41 Eric Newby SOMETHING WHOLESALE

Who would have thought that the adventurous traveller and decorated wartime hero Eric Newby had started his working life in the rag trade? But that is the story he tells in this characteristically jaunty and very funny book.

Newby was in his late twenties when he returned home in 1945 after an adventurous war. He had escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp in Italy and had fallen in love with his future wife Wanda, who had saved his life when he was hiding out in the mountains – an episode he later memorably described in *Love and War in the Apennines*. Back in London, however, demobbed and demoralized, he bowed to pressure and joined the family firm.

Lane & Newby, 'Mantle Manufacturers and Wholesale Costumiers', occupied a warren of offices in Great Marlborough Street and here young Eric was put to work. As Eric blundered his hapless way through the various departments, things were beginning to go wrong at Great Marlborough Street. Eric's father, an Edwardian patriarch with a light-hearted attitude to accounting, had somehow managed to keep the firm going while sidestepping the more extreme changes in fashion. But he had been running up debts, and during the Fifties Lane & Newby finally collapsed under the weight of a massive tax demand. By this time, however, Eric was laying plans for an excursion to the Hindu Kush which would form the basis for an equally exuberant and entertaining book – and the rest is travel history.



'Smashing little hardbacks the way hardbacks used to be . . . produced by people who love books, for people who love books' Belgravia Books

Published 1 March 2018 • £17.50 • ISBN 978-1-910898-13-0

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