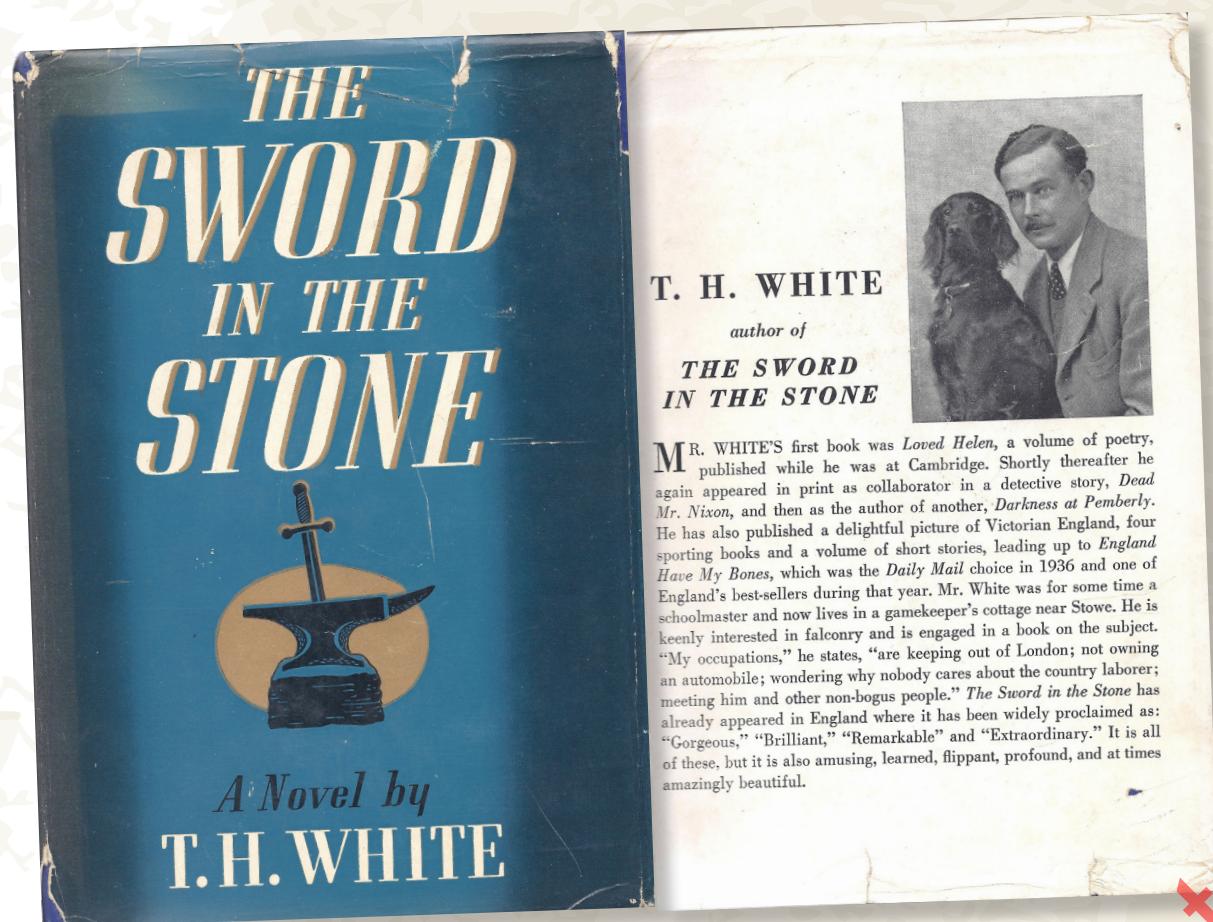




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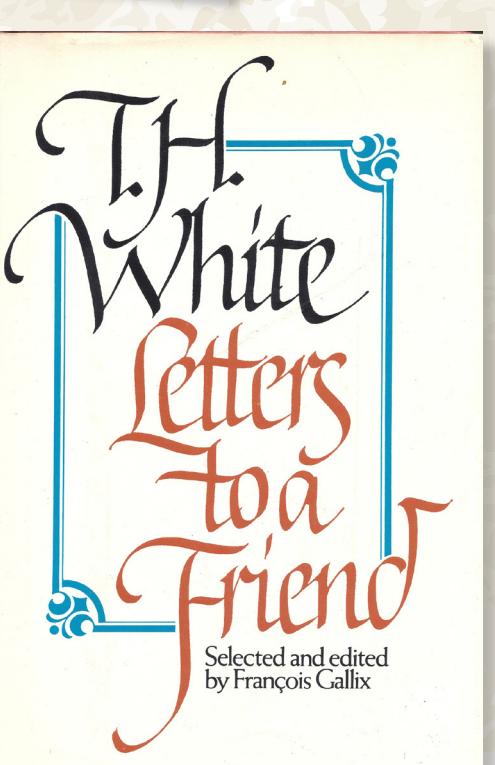
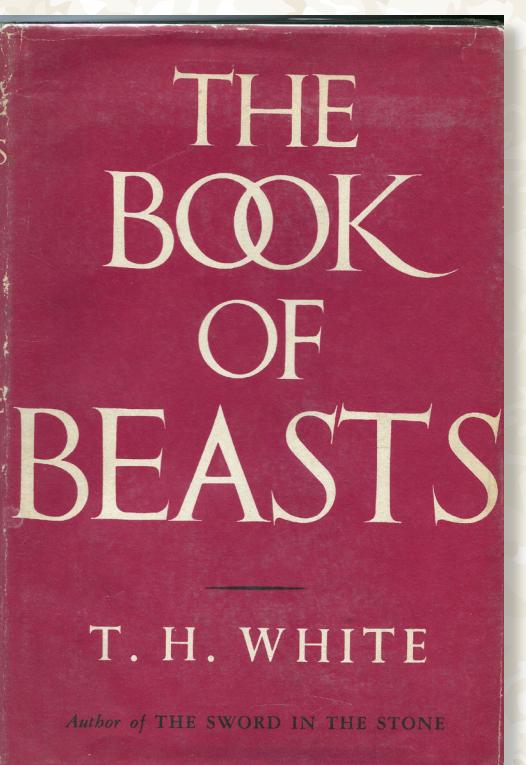
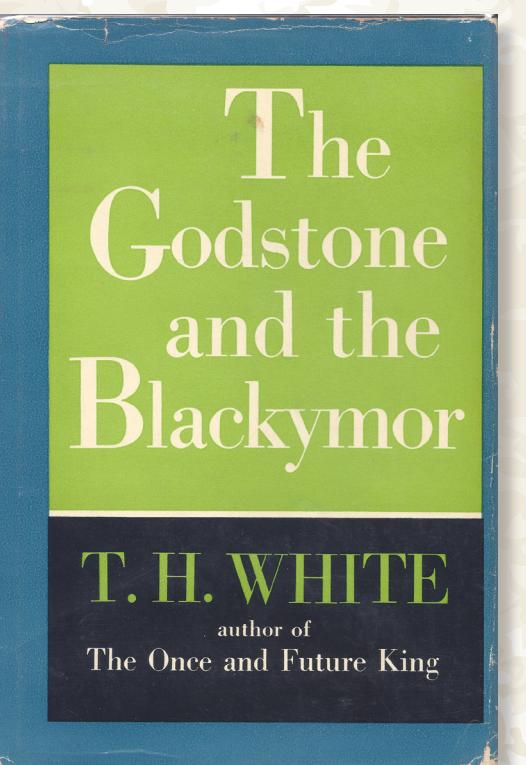
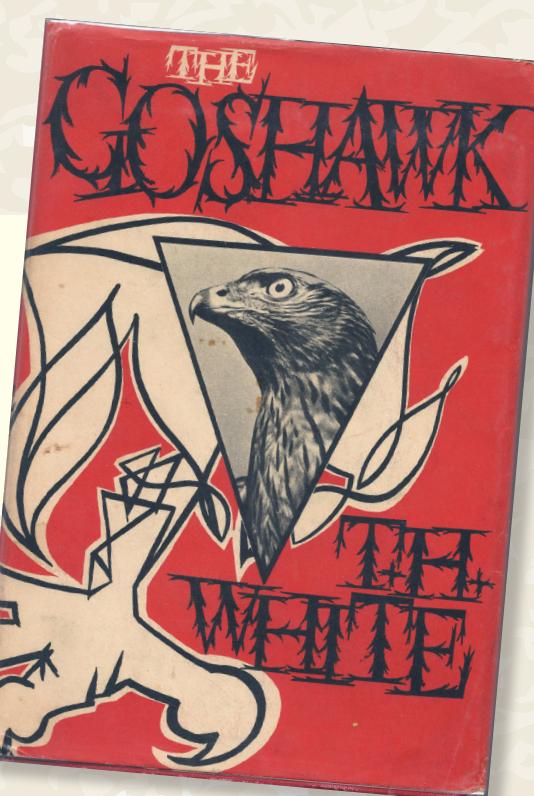


FROM THE SWORD AND THE STONE BOOK JACKET:

Mr. White's first book was *Loved Helen*, a volume of poetry published while he was at Cambridge. Shortly thereafter he again appeared in print as collaborator in a detective story, *Dead Mr. Nixon*, and then as the author of another, *Darkness at Pemberly*. He has also published a delightful picture of Victorian England, four sporting books and a volume of short stories, leaving up to *England Have My Bones*, which was the *Daily Mail* choice in 1936 and one of England's best-sellers during that year. Mr. White was for some time a schoolmaster and now lives in a gamekeeper's cottage near Stowe. He is keenly interested in falconry and is engaged in a book on the subject. "My occupations," he states, "are keeping out of London; not owning an automobile; wondering why nobody cares about the country laborer; meeting him and other non-bogus people." *The Sword in the Stone* has already appeared in England where it has been widely proclaimed as "Gorgeous," "Brilliant," "Remarkable" and "Extraordinary." It is all of these, but it is also amusing, learned, flippant, profound, and at times amazingly beautiful.



**A SAMPLING OF
BOOKS WRITTEN
BY T.H. WHITE.**





Biography on TERENCE HANBURY WHITE

By Stacia Novy

Terence Hanbury White was a prolific author, producing no less than 22 major literary works during his lifetime. White continued to write until his untimely death in 1964, several books being published posthumously. Additional manuscripts still remain unpublished to the present day and are housed at the University of Texas at Austin.

White, known as "T.H." in literary circles and as "Tim" to his closest friends, was born in Bombay, India under British rule. He later moved to England and studied at Cheltenham College, Gloucestershire, and at Queens' College in Cambridge, earning an English degree in 1928. He developed an early fascination with medieval history and wrote a collegiate thesis on Thomas Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*.

His interest in archaic field sports ultimately led to the study and practice of falconry, in which White was well-known, albeit his reputation as a falconer was tainted by the publication of *The Goshawk* in 1951. The book documents White's tenuous first attempts to tame and train a wild-caught goshawk for falconry and, although hailed as a masterpiece by literary critics, it was often scorned by masters of the art for its naiveté. Despite his early failings, White continued to fly trained falconry birds for over 20 years and some of the best descriptions on hawking appear in the pages of his later books. *The Godstone* and the *Blackymor* (1959) reveals rustic scenes of hunting cottages, shooting, and grouse hawking on Irish moors. His Arthurian novels, published as a set titled *The Once and Future King*, contain famous scenes from an imaginary Royal Mews. The young King Arthur, called "Wart", is transformed into a merlin and placed inside the mews to spend an unforgettable night with a matriarchal peregrine falcon, two merlins and a crazy tiercel goshawk. The magical evening erupts in adventure and chivalry and song. The storyline is reminiscent of White's personal experiences and the raptor characters were, in fact, named after his own--and very real--falconry birds.

White maintained a lifelong interest in natural history, falconry and birdwatching. He corresponded with Jack Mavrogordato and was a member of the British Falconers' Club from 1937-1939, publishing an article "Predatory Birds of Great Britain" in its 1939 Journal. While touring America from 1963-1964, he kept a travel diary that included a list of avifauna sighted along the way. His portfolio in Texas contains unpublished manuscripts on peregrine falcons and merlins, books that White was currently writing at the time of his death. He passed away on a docked cruise ship in Athens, Greece, out-of-country and far from his homeland of England, at the age of 57.

T.H. White's novels were adapted for Broadway plays and movies. His legacy continues to inspire contemporary authors, especially those with a focus on falconry or birding, and contemplations on his life appear in such books as *On the Edge of the Wild* (Stephen Bodio 1998); *Looking for the Goshawk* (Conor Jameson 2013); and *H is for Hawk* (Helen MacDonald 2014). Due to his transient and wandering lifestyle, no memorial existed to commemorate the literary and falconry achievements of T.H. White until one was established at The Archives of Falconry in 2015.

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