



TEMPLE
RARE BOOKS OF OXFORD

Great Expectations

Dickens, Charles

£12,000



Description

Three volumes complete - Volume One - [5], 2-344pp; Volume Two - [3], 2-351pp, [1]; Volume Three - [3], 2-344pp. Original blind stamped purple cloth, title, author, volume number, and publisher in gilt to spine. Slightly rubbed to extremities, lightly dust stained to top edge of text block, minor cocking. Internally a few spots to margins, but generally quite bright and clean. Now housed in a leather entry slipcase, made by Temple Bookbinders. Bound without the catalogue (see Smith, Charles Dickens in the Original Cloth, footnote 4, page 104). One of Dickens's best novels, "the story that for many critics (and for many 'common readers' too) represents the very highest reach of Dickens's art as a novelist... this masterfully structured and brilliantly written story of money, class, sex, and obsessive mental states with, for the first time ever in Dickens's major fiction, a protagonist who is unambiguously working-class" (ODNB). An attractive set of the 'fifth edition', though as Smith notes, the "first edition was followed by four other so-called editions (actually issues) on August 5, August 17, September 21, and October 30. These first five issues were probably printed at a single impression and published with altered title pages to imply and encourage a rapid sale" (Smith, Charles Dickens in the Original Cloth, page 103). Podeschi A146 (fifth copy); Smith 14