

Books and Manuscripts (1706)

May 20, 2021 EST, Freeman's

Lot 32

Estimate: \$400 - \$600 (plus Buyer's Premium)

[Literature] Dowson, Ernest *Decorations: In Verse and Prose*

London: Leonard Smithers and Co, 1899. First edition (one of 300 copies printed). 8vo. (xii), 50, (2) pp. Title-page in red and black. Original full vellum, decoratively stamped in gilt with a design by Althea Gyles; all edges untrimmed; offsetting and foxing to prelims and rear endpapers; old catalogue slip mounted to rear paste-down; in green cloth fall-down-back box. *A near-fine copy.* Lasner 219.

"Cover design sometimes erroneously attributed to (Aubrey) Beardsley...According to Dowson's biographer and editor Mark Longaker, 'Guy Harrison, who supplied the bibliography for Victor Plarr's *Ernest Dowson* (1914), was in error in naming Aubrey Beardsley as the designer of the cover.' Longaker attributes the entire design to the artist Althea Gyles, whose monogram (an 'A' within a heart) is found only on the back cover. Other commentators have ascribed the front cover to Pickford Waller." (Lasner 219)

