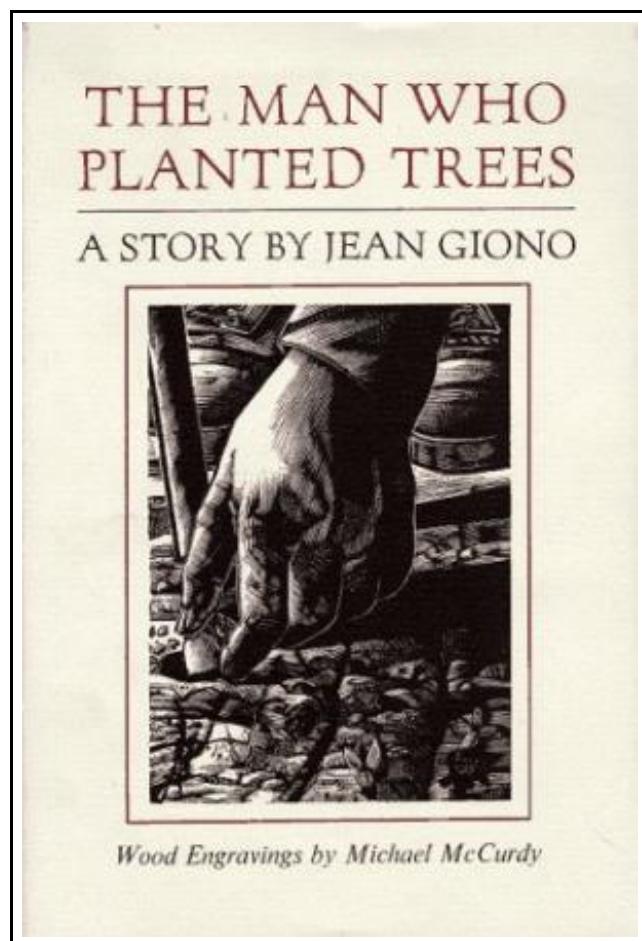


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Chelsea Green Publishing, Chelsea, VT, 1985. Hard Cover. Book Condition: NEW. Dust Jacket Condition: Very Good. Michael McCurdy (Wood Engravings) (illustrator). First Edition, First Printing. Text/BRAND NEW. Green linen boards/Fine. DJ/VG; sound w/closed tear to upper spine corner & trace soiling to lower front leading edge. Fiction. Memoir and biography in form; narrated in the first person. "In order for the character of a human being to reveal truly exceptional qualities, we must have the good fortune to observe its action over a long period of years." So begins French author Jean Giono's (1895 - 1970) tale of Elzeard Bouffier, whom the narrator had the good fortune to know over years. Written (French title: *L'homme qui plantait des arbres*) in French but first published in English, 1953; this is a re-issue of 1985 w/woodcuts by Michael McCurdy. The young and dehydrated narrator first meets Elzéard Bouffier, a shepherd and sole inhabitant in the desolate, arid foothills of the Alps in Provence dotted only with crumbling evidence of prior human habitation. There, Bouffier, a widowed, middle-aged shepherd is, quite alone, planting acorns gathered from afar. The author (Giono) revisits the bleak valley after soldilering in World War I to find saplings and running streams. Thereafter, the visits are annual. In time, Bouffier turns to bee-keeping to protect trees from knowing sheep, helping wounded lands to become a re-born Garden of Eden. By tale's end, forest grown, the valley receives official protection. Gov't authorities attribute the forest growth to bizarre natural phenomenon, and the more than 10,000 people that move there know no more. And so it was, this account was penned --- ignorance dispelled, it did elicit friends to protect and honor a forest. The work was adapted to film by Frédéric Back and received an Academy Award for Best Animated...

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