

Reading the Saints

Lists of Catholic Books for Children Plus Book Collecting Tips for the Home and School Library Second Edition

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A RACE for Heaven Product

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Introduction

Every attempt has been made to ensure that the book lists included below are accurate and complete. If any errors or omissions are found in any of these lists, please contact the publisher. Any and all corrections and suggestions for additions are appreciated. Note that no distinction has been made between biography and historical fiction. In the case of the Newbery and Caldecott Award books, many of the selections are fictional books with Catholic and/or Christian content.

While some of the out-of-print series books described in *Reading the Saints* are back in print, many are not. This means that they are not currently being published; new copies may no longer be available. However, this does not mean that the book cannot be purchased. In fact, many of the out-of-print hardbacks are less expensive to purchase than the paperback editions that are currently in print. (See “Book Collecting Basics” beginning on page 247 for more information.) To assist in purchasing, the following symbols are used to indicate the relative availability of each out-of-print book within the series’ listings:

- * In print and readily available
 - ® Out of print, rare, usually priced over \$15.00
 - § Out of print, scarce, usually priced over \$30.00 with limited copies available
- No symbol beside a book indicates that it is readily available for \$15.00 or less.

In this new edition, it is necessary to note the proliferation of print-on-demand publishing companies who produce out-of-print books. Beware that often these books are low quality and may be overpriced. While the availability of these books by companies such as Kessinger or Literary Licensing LLC is noted by the initials “POD” and the year, note that many print-on-demand books are scanned copies that are mass-produced and come replete with typos, missing pages, and generic covers. While you may obtain a book you have long been seeking, you may be disappointed in both the quality and the price. To avoid these types of books, it is important to check the name of the book’s publisher before you purchase.

Whenever possible, space is provided at the end of each series listing for personal notes. Consider your copy of *Reading the Saints* to be your workbook to keep a record of your family’s favorite books on Catholic saints. Use it as a reading diary for your children, noting the dates of completion beside each book. Utilize the databases to incorporate a study of our Catholic saints into your history and religious curriculum, or evening read-aloud program. Make your own list of best-loved books to recommend to others, your most wanted books to purchase, and your own finds of favorite Catholic books for children (See page 84.).

The books listed within each series are in chronological or alphabetical order. The order in which each series is introduced is based upon the reading level of the series; those series with books geared to the youngest readers are listed first in both the “Catholic Out-of-Print Series Books” and “Catholic Series Books in Print” sections.

While this volume is an attempt to list traditional Catholic series books about saints, no attempt has been made to include other types of resources. Below are other possible options:

- † In addition to the Fr. Francis and Windeatt series of saint coloring books, many other Catholic coloring book options are available. If your artists enjoy coloring books, check the many options available from your favorite Catholic publisher or vendor.

- † Some of the books listed in *Reading the Saints* have also been produced in audio format. For example, under the “Favorite Catholic Books for Various Ages” section on page 38, *The King of the Golden City*, *The Outlaws of Ravenhurst*, and many of the books published by Bethlehem Books and Ignatius Press are also available as audio books; Catholic Audio Children’s Saint Series has begun to record the Mary Fabyan Windeatt saint series books. The Holy Heroes website (www.HolyHeroes.com) offers a variety of audio saint resources including Glory Stories, a series of (currently) twelve audio CD’s each containing the stories of two Catholic saints. These are but a few of the audio options available.
- † It is increasing popular and, in fact, routine for many publishers to produce their traditional books as e-books in downloadable PDF format. If you or your children prefer this format, consult the publisher’s website to see which books are available in this format.
- † In addition to the audio Glory Stories series, Holy Heroes also offers various movies in DVD format on the lives of the saints for children. Ignatius Press sells the saint series from CCC of America that includes nine saints as well as many family-appropriate videos on saints’ lives. Vision Video also has an excellent selection of Catholic videos including the *My Catholic Family* series that uses the lives of various saints to help teach virtues. If you prefer to rent videos, check out PiusMedia.com. Explore the Internet for many other video options. Viewing a movie about a saint often prompts an increased interest in reading a full-length saint biography.
- † Many comicbook-type books that focus on the lives of the saints (such as Comicolor Saints by Pauline Media) are available. If this is your child’s interest, please search the World Wide Web for these resources.
- † Another valuable saint biography resource is children’s saint anthology books. Try the Sisters of Notre Dame’s *Saints and Feast Days: A Resource and Activity Book* (2006) or *Illustrated Lives of the Saints* by Rev. Hugo Hoever for daily saint readings. Options are plentiful in this category whether you want daily readings or short stories on specific saints. Again, check with your favorite Catholic publisher or vendor for suggestions.
- † And last but not least, consider a phone app on the saints to educate, entertain, and inspire your children. Pauline Media’s “Little Ap of Saints” and “Little Ap of More Saints” are available for \$.99 each. Designed for children aged 5-11, this ap provides a jigsaw puzzle on various saints with the choice of three levels of difficulty. After the puzzle is solved, a gift is opened that contains a short first-person audio narration of the saint’s life (or a song) as well as an application to daily life. Check around for other children’s saint aps.

May *Reading the Saints* be a blessing to you and your family as you learn from Holy Mother Church’s vast selection of saintly personalities how each of us is called to uniquely serve and praise our loving God.

Janet P. McKenzie
April 7, 2013
Feast of Divine Mercy

Be as careful of the books you read, as of the company you keep, for your habits and character will be as much influenced by the former as the latter.
—Paxton Hood

Catholic Out-of-Print Series Books

Caldecott Award Books

The following books are those that have won the Caldecott Medal or have been recognized as Caldecott Honor books. The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of the nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. Since 1938, this award has been presented each year by the Association for Library Service to Children—a division of the American Library Association—to the “artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.” While the books listed below are not strictly about saints, the books listed contain Catholic and/or Christian content. Independent reading level on most of these books is around age eight, but these picture books can be enjoyed by all ages. (Later books in this series are still in print.)

**Children are made
readers on the laps
of their parents.
—Emilie Buchwald**

Ages: 4 and up

1. §Ageless Story by Lauren Ford, with antiphons pictured by the author (1939) – the story of Christ’s birth with Gregorian chant notations
2. *Baboushka and the Three Kings by Ruth Robbins, illustrated by Nicolas Sidjakov (1960) – a Russian tale of the Epiphany
3. ®Christmas Anna Angel by Ruth Sawyer, illustrated by Kate Seredy (1944) – a Hungarian Christmas of long ago
4. *Juanita by Leo Politi, illustrated by the author (1948) – traditional Mexican blessing of the animals on the day before Easter
5. Nine Days to Christmas, A Story of Mexico by Marie Hall Ets and Aurora Labastida, illustrated by Marie Hall Ets (1959) – *posadas* and *pinatas* for Christmas
6. *Noah’s Ark by Jerry Pinkney, illustrated by author (2003) – story of the Flood
7. *Noah’s Ark by Peter Spier, illustrated by the author (1977) – wordless story of the Flood
8. *Pedro, the Angel of Olvera Street by Leo Politi, illustrated by the author (1946) – *posadas* and *pinatas* for Christmas
9. *Saint George and the Dragon by Margaret Hodges, illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman (1984) – the legend of St. George
10. *Song of the Swallows by Leo Politi, illustrated by the author (1948) – swallows’ annual return to the Mission of San Juan Capistrano on St. Joseph’s Day

**Everything we read stimulates our mind to think,
and what we think determines what we desire,
and desires are the seedbed of our actions.
—Fr. John Hardon**

Vision Books

Publisher's Description: “. . . rich collection of biographies for Catholic youngsters from 9 to 15. Written by well-known authors in sparkling, lively language, Vision Books are based upon careful research and historical fact.” Note that many of the Vision books were also published in a Catholic Youth Book Club edition. The original editions—not book club—can be identified by the Vision Book logos on the front and back end pages—the pages attached to the covers.

Name of Publisher: Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, Inc.

Ages: 9 and up

Date of Publication: 1955-1967

**A bookstore is one of the
only pieces of evidence
we have that people are
still thinking.
—Jerry Seinfeld**

Most of the original hardbacks are readily available in used bookstores for \$4.00 or less. Some of these titles (*) have been reprinted in paperback by Ignatius Press; see “Vision Books” in the “Catholic Series Books in Print” section below.

1. *St. John Bosco and the Children's Saint, Dominic Savio by Catherine Beebe (1955)
2. *St. Therese and the Roses by Helen Walker Homan (1955)
3. *Father Marquette and the Great Rivers by August Derleth (1955)
4. *St. Francis of the Seven Seas by Albert J. Nevins (1955)
5. *Bernadette and the Lady by Hertha Pauli (1956)
6. *St. Isaac and the Indians by Milton Lomask (1956)
7. Fighting Father Duffy by Jim and Virginia Lee Bishop (1956)
8. *St. Pius X, the Farm Boy Who Became Pope by Walter Diethelm (1956)
9. *St. Ignatius and the Company of Jesus by August Derleth (1956)
10. John Carroll: Bishop and Patriot by Milton Lomask (1956)
11. *St. Dominic and the Rosary by Catherine Beebe (1956)
12. The Cross in the West by Mark Boesch (1956)
13. My Eskimos: A Priest in the Arctic by Roger P. Buliard (1956)
14. Champions in Sports and Spirit by Ed Fitzgerald (1956)
15. *Francis and Clare, Saints of Assisi by Helen Walker Homan (1956)
16. *®Christmas and the Saints by Hertha Pauli (1956, 2010 POD)
17. *Edmund Campion, Hero of God's Underground by Harold C. Gardiner (1957)
18. Modern Crusaders by John Travers Moore and Rosemarian Staudacher (1957)
19. *Our Lady Came to Fatima by Ruth Fox Hume (1957)
20. The Bible Story, The Promised Lord and His Coming by Catherine Beebe (1957)
21. St. Augustine and His Search for Faith by Milton Lomask (1957)
22. *St. Joan, The Girl Soldier by Louis de Wohl (1957)
23. *St. Thomas More of London by Elizabeth M. Ince (1957)
24. *Mother Seton and the Sisters of Charity by Alma Power-Waters (1957)
25. *St. Thomas Aquinas and the Preaching Beggars by Brendan Larnen and Milton Lomask (1957)

26. *Father Damien and the Bells by Arthur and Elizabeth Sheehan (1957)
27. Columbus and the New World by August Derleth (1957)
28. *St. Philip of the Joyous Heart by Francis X. Connolly (1957)
29. ®Lydia Longley, the First American Nun by Helen A. McCarthy (1958)
30. *St. Anthony and the Christ Child by Helen Walker Homan (1958)
31. *St. Elizabeth's Three Crowns by Blanche Jennings Thompson (1958)
32. *Katharine Drexel, Friend of the Neglected by Ellen Tarry (1958)
33. *§St. Louis and the Last Crusade by Margaret Ann Hubbard (1958)
34. *Kateri Tekakwitha, Mohawk Maid by Evelyn M. Brown (1958)
35. *St. Benedict, Hero of the Hills by Mary Fabyan Windeatt (1958)
36. *The Cure of Ars, The Priest Who Outtalked the Devil by Milton Lomask (1958)
37. ®Catholic Campuses, Stories of American Catholic Colleges by Rosemarian Staudacher (1958)
38. *§St. Helena and the True Cross by Louis de Wohl (1959)
39. Governor Al Smith by James Farley and James Conniff (1959)
40. Kit Carson of the Old West by Mark Boesch (1959)
41. Rose Hawthorne: The Pilgrimage of Nathaniel's Daughter by Arthur and Elizabeth Sheehan (1959)
42. The Ursulines, Nuns of Adventure by Harnett T. Kane (1959)
43. *Mother Cabrini, Missionary to the World by Frances Parkinson Keyes (1959)
44. More Champions in Sports and Spirit by Ed Fitzgerald (1959)
45. St. Margaret Mary, Apostle of the Sacred Heart by Ruth Fox Hume (1960)
46. When Saints Were Young by Blanche Jennings Thompson (1960)
47. Frances Warde and the First Sisters of Mercy by Sr. Marie Christopher (1960)
48. *Vincent de Paul, Saint of Charity by Margaret Ann Hubbard (1960)
49. *Florence Nightingale's Nuns by Emmeline Garnett (1961)
50. §Pope Pius XII, the World's Shepherd by Louis de Wohl (1961)
51. St. Jerome and the Bible by George Sanderlin (1961)
52. Saints of the Byzantine World by Blanche Jennings Thompson (1961)
53. Chaplains in Action by Rosemarian Staudacher (1962)
54. *St. Catherine Laboure and the Miraculous Medal by Alma Power-Waters (1962)
55. Mother Barat's Vineyard by Margaret Ann Hubbard (1962)
56. Charles de Foucauld, Adventurer of the Desert by Emmeline Garnett (1962)
57. Martin de Porres, Saint of the New World by Ellen Tarry (1963)
58. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Pioneer Teacher by Sister Mary Genevieve (1963)
59. §Father Kino, Priest to the Pimas by Ann Nolan Clark (1963)
60. ®Children Welcome: Villages for Boys and Girls by Rosemarian Staudacher (1963)
61. St. Gregory the Great, Consul of God by George Sanderlin (1964)
62. Peter and Paul: The Rock and the Sword by Blanche Jennings Thompson (1964)
63. Irish Saints by Robert T. Reilly (1964, 1981, 2002 by Gramercy)
64. Dear Philippine: Mission of Mother Duchesne by Margaret Ann Hubbard (1964)
65. Peter Claver, Saint Among Slaves by Ann Roos (1965)
66. John Neumann, The Children's Bishop by Elizabeth Odell Sheehan (1965)

Author Bibliography

A-C

Abodaheer, Daniel

Daniel Duluth: Explorer of the Northlands (American Background)

Under Three Flags: The Story of Gabriel Richard (Hawthorn Junior Biography)

Adams, Dorothy – Cavalry Hero: Casimir Pulaski (American Background)

Adams, Julie Davis – Mountains Are Free (Newbery)

Alois, Brother – Frontier Priest and Congressman: Father Gabriel Richard (Banner Books)

Alves, Mary Emmanuel – Saint Francis of Assisi: Gentle Revolutionary (Encounter the Saints)

Anderson, Floyd

Bishop's Boy (Catholic Treasury)

Father of the American Navy: Captain John Barry (Banner Books)

Gold Rush Bishop (Catholic Treasury)

Andes, Mary Lou and Victoria Dority – Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini: Cecchina's Dream (Encounter the Saints)

Angelo, Valenti – Nino (Newbery)

Antoninus, Brother and Brother Kurt – Friar among Savages: Father Luis Cancer (Banner Books)

Arnsteen, Katy Keck (Kid Scripts)

Abraham and Isaac

Deborah

Jonah: The Whale and the Vine

Joseph and the Dreams

Joshua: God's General

Moses

Naomi and Ruth

Queen Esther

Ball, Ann – Jose Finds the King, A Blessed Miguel Pro Story (Glory of America)

Balskus, Pat – Trailblazer for the Sacred Heart: Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey, Globe-Trotter for the Sacred Heart (Encounter Books)

Bartelme, Elizabeth – Simon Bruté and the Western Adventure (American Background)

Baudouin-Croix, Marie (Along the Paths of the Gospel)

Saint Anthony of Padua: Proclaimer of the Good News

Saint Therese of Lisieux: And the "Little Way" of Love

Beebe, Catherine

Apostles of the Lord, The (Beebe Biography)

Bible Story (The), The Promised Lord and His Coming (Vision Books)

Children's Saint Anthony, The (Beebe Biography)

Children's Saint Francis, The (Beebe Biography)

Christmas Story According to the Holy Gospel, The (Beebe Biography)

David, the Shepherd King (Beebe Biography and Holy Cross Press)

The closest we will
ever come to an
orderly universe is
a good library.
—Ashleigh Brilliant

Saint Series Books by Geographical Setting

The following pages list the saint series books by geographical location. The reading level of each book as well as the series to which it belongs are also indicated. The “OOP” column indicates whether the book is currently out of print—as of April 2013.

Country	Cen.	Book Title	Author	Series	Year	OOP	Ages
Africa	03	Saint Christopher	Windeatt, Mary Fabyan	Windeatt Coloring	1955	YES	04 and up
Africa	03	Story of St. Cyprian, A	Ernest, Brother	Footsteps of the Saints	1960, 2012	NO	06-09
Africa	04	Monica, Model for Christian Mothers	Forbes, F.A.	Forbes Biography	1915, 1998	NO	12 and up
Africa	04 & 05	Lives of the Saints: The Monastic Era (St. Augustine)	Tesoriero, Bart	Aquinas Kids	2010	NO	05-09
Africa	04 & 05	Saints for Boys (St. Augustine of Hippo)	Muus, Solveig and Bart Tesoriero	Aquinas Kids	2012	NO	05-09
Africa	19	Book of Saints, Part 10 (St. Justin de Jacobis)	Lovasik, Fr. Lawrence	St. Joseph Picture	1997	NO	05 and up
Africa	20	Edel Quinn: Beneath the Southern Cross	Brown, Evelyn M.	Vision Books	1967	YES	09-15
Africa (Uganda)	19	African Triumph, The Life of Charles Lwanga	Dollen, Charles	Encounter Books	1967, 1978	YES	09 and up
Africa (Sudan)	19 & 20	Saint Bakhita of Sudan: Forever Free	Wallace, Susan Helen	Encounter the Saints	2006	NO	09 and up
Albania	20	Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: Missionary of Charity	Glavich, Mary Kathleen SND	Encounter the Saints	2003	NO	09 and up
Albania	20	Mother Teresa	Winkler, Father Jude	St. Joseph Picture	2002	NO	05 and up
Algeria	19 & 20	Charles de Foucauld, Adventurer of the Desert	Garnett, Emmeline	Vision Books	1962	YES	09-15
Arabia	01	Book of Saints, Part 8 (St. Bartholomew or Nathaniel)	Lovasik, Father Lawrence	St. Joseph Picture Books	1993	NO	05 and up
Armenia	01	Saints for Boys (St. Jude Thaddeus)	Muus, Solveig and Bart Tesoriero	Aquinas Kids	2012	NO	05-09
Armenia	04	Book of Saints, Part 7 (St. Blaise)	Lovasik, Fr. Lawrence	St. Joseph Picture	1993	NO	05 and up
Armenia	04	Lives of the Saints: The Monastic Era (St. Blaise)	Tesoriero, Bart	Aquinas Kids	2010	NO	05-09
Armenia	04	Story of St. Blaise, A	Cullen, Brother Frankin	In the Footsteps of the Saints	1958, 2010	NO	06-09

Saint Series Books in Chronological Order

The following pages list the saint series books in chronological order (by century). The “OOP” column indicates whether the book is currently out of print—as of April 2013.

Cen.	Country	Book Title	Author	Series	Year	OOP	Ages
B.C.	Assyria	Jonah, The Whale and the Vine	Arnsteen, Katy Keck	Kid Scripts	1997	NO	04-08
B.C.	Egypt	Joseph and the Dreams	Arnsteen, Katy Keck	Kid Scripts	1997	NO	04-08
B.C.	Egypt	Moses	Arnsteen, Katy Keck	Kid Scripts	1997	NO	04-08
B.C.	Egypt	Story of Joseph and His Brothers, The	Winkler, Rev. Jude	St. Joseph Bible Story Books	1988, 1994	YES	05-09
B.C.	Egypt	Story of Moses, The	Winkler, Rev. Jude	St. Joseph Bible Story	1988, 1994	YES	05-09
B.C.	Holy Land	David, King of Israel	Schmid, Brother Evan	Footsteps of the Saints	1966, 2011	NO	09-12
B.C.	Holy Land	David and Goliath	de Paola, Tomie	de Paola Biography	1984	YES	04-08
B.C.	Holy Land	David of Jerusalem	de Wohl, Louis	de Wohl Biography	1963	YES	15 and up
B.C.	Holy Land	David, The Shepherd King	Beebe, Catherine	Beebe Biography	1966	YES	10 and up
B.C.	Holy Land	David, The Shepherd King	Beebe, Catherine	Holy Cross Press	1966	YES	09 and up
B.C.	Holy Land	King David and His Songs, A Story of the Psalms	Windeatt, Mary Fabyan	Windeatt Saint Series	1993	NO	09 and up
B.C.	Israel	Anne (grandmother of Jesus)	Richardson, M.K.	Patron Saint Books	1960	YES	08 and up
B.C.	Israel	Book of Saints, Part 1 (St. Anne)	Lovasik, Fr. Lawrence	St. Joseph Picture	1981	NO	05 and up
B.C.	Israel	Book of Saints, Part 4 (St. Joachim)	Lovasik, Fr. Lawrence	St. Joseph Picture	1982	YES	05 and up
B.C.	Israel	Lives of the Saints: The Early Church (Blessed Virgin Mary)	Tesoriero, Bart	Aquinas Kids	2010	NO	05-09
B.C.	Israel	Lives of the Saints: The Early Church (St. Anne)	Tesoriero, Bart	Aquinas Kids	2010	NO	05-09
B.C.	Israel	Lives of the Saints: The Early Church (St. Joseph)	Tesoriero, Bart	Aquinas Kids	2010	NO	05-09
B.C.	Israel	Mary (mother of Jesus)	Dorcy, Sister Mary Jean	Patron Saint Books	1958	YES	08 and up
B.C.	Israel	Saints for Boys (St. Joseph)	Muus, Solveig and Bart Tesoriero	Aquinas Kids	2012	NO	05-09

However, library books have several advantages over more collectable editions. Many library books have been rebound, that is the boards removed from the book signatures and replaced. These books are smaller than the original edition with covers that may not be as decorative. Generally very sturdy, these books make excellent reading copies that withstand rough handling and ensure less worry about depreciation or destruction. Many books sold to libraries have been published with sturdier “library bindings” that withstand more general abuse. A description of “library binding” may apply to either of these conditions.

A wonderful thing about a book, in contrast to a computer screen, is that you can take it to bed with you. —Daniel J. Boorstein

Aside from their durability, library books also have the advantage of being not only less expensive to obtain but also more readily available. Libraries often receive the first printed edition of many books; you will more readily find true first editions and first printings from libraries. Finally, the dustjackets of library books are generally encased in a protective cover. Considering that up to 80% of the value of a collectible book resides in the dust jacket, finding a reading copy edition with a near-perfect dust jacket can be a worthwhile purchase.

Book lovers will understand me, and they will know too that part of the pleasure of a library lies in its very existence. —Jan Morris

Identification of First Editions

All serious book collectors eventually will deal with the issue of first editions, as this—along with condition—is *the* determining factor regarding a book's monetary value. First editions are significant as they indicate the first or primary state of the book. Additionally, the initial printing may be smaller in number and therefore more difficult to obtain—more collectible.

The term *first edition* is itself a misnomer and today is often used interchangeably with *first impression* or *first printing*. What book collectors refer to as a *first edition* (or just a *first*) is generally the first printing of the first edition. A book can be a first edition and not a first printing. Identification of a true first edition also needs to take into consideration the matters of *issue*, *points of issue*, and *state*—all of which highlight the various causes of confusion regarding true first editions and the complexity involved in determining them. To cover completely the issue of the identification of first editions requires a high level of expertise and more space than is available here.

However, several principles can help clarify matters. Since the late 1940's, many publishers have adopted a simple system for identifying first editions—a number or letter string on the copyright page which is used to indicate first and later printings. Generally the presence of the letter “a” or the number “1” that appears anywhere on this line indicates that the edition is a first printing. (Of course, exceptions do apply even to this simple rule—most notably with Random House publishers.) For publishers using this system, if the words *first edition* appear and not either the letter “a” or the number “1” on the copyright page, the book is probably not a true first.

Number or letter strings aside, throughout the years different publishers have had different methods of designating first editions. These methods not only vary from publisher to publisher but have also frequently changed within each individual publishing company. Some publishers admit that they have not always conformed to their own company's practice while some have no designation for determining firsts at all. Book club editions of a book may indicate a first edition but if the book was previously published as a trade edition, the book club edition is not a true first. Reprint publishers may indicate *first edition*, but again a reprint volume would not be a true first edition.

So now that the matter of identifying first editions has been totally muddled and complete confusion reigns, it is clear that the scope of this book cannot begin to do justice to this topic. However, assistance is not far away. Many good articles exist online to help alleviate confusion regarding the identification of first editions. Additionally, in *Book Finds*, Ian Ellis has added an appendix that lists many common publishers and their procedures throughout the years for identifying first editions. If you wish to delve into this subject more deeply, purchase Bill McBride's booklet, *A Pocket Guide to the Identification of First Editions*—a small but comprehensive reference that is indispensable to beginning book collectors interested in identifying first editions.

Book Club Editions

Knowledge about book club editions (BCE) will not only aid in the identification of first editions but also help determine the value of your book collection. Some BCE's are true first editions as they may represent the first time a title is in print. They sometimes also mark the first appearance of a book as a hardback.

Although exceptions do exist in children's literature, book club editions—especially those generated by The Weekly Reader Book Club—are generally valued only slightly higher than paperback editions. Commonly, book club publishers cut costs on paper and bindings in order to sell their books at 20-30% less than the original volume; for example, paper may not be acid-free and hence subject to degradation, yellowing, and crumbling. Book club editions can be identified not only by their lighter, less-substantial feel but also by the lack of a price on the inside dust jacket. "Book Club Edition" may be marked on the dust jacket. These books may also be identified by a small square or round indentation (called a *blind stamp*) on the bottom right corner of the outside back cover.

Good as it is to inherit a library, it is better to collect one.

—Augustine Birrell

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