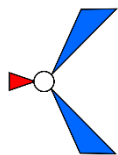


1180 EB

bncdoc.id	CCB
bncdoc.author	Uden, Grant
bncdoc.year	1986
bncdoc.title	Understanding book-collecting.
bncdoc.info	Understanding book-collecting. Sample containing about 41784 words from a book (domain: leisure)
Text availability	Worldwide rights cleared
Publication date	1975-1984
Text type	Written books and periodicals
David Lee's classification	W_misc

<1180/c>	<p>This, of course, illustrates the vital necessity of keeping medical and scientific works up-to-date, and the fact that outmoded editions are worthless until they have attained the status of historical curiosities. The further back a collector goes, the more he will have to pay. A 'Gray's Anatomy' of the 1920s may well be found for less than £5. The first edition of the Anatomy, Descriptive & Surgical (1858) with 363 wood engravings, is likely to fetch around £200. One curious example may have been noticed in the foregoing listing-that of the Rev. Henry Cotton's invaluable A Typographical Gazetteer, which is in the original binding. This is clearly stated to be the 'second edition, corrected and much enlarged' and the original, reprinted, Introduction establishes the first edition as 1824. At the end of the book, however, there are thirty-two pages of publisher's advertisements, dated 1885, which have not been tipped-in but bound in as an integral part. This can only mean that the University Press at Oxford kept the type of the second edition standing for over fifty years, or else had a large number of the second edition sheets left over and stored. This would by no means be a record. Stephen Pile's Book of Heroic Failures quotes David Wilkins's translation of the New Testament from Coptic into Latin, published in 1716 by the Oxford University Press, as having remained in print till 1907, by which time only 191 copies had been sold! We have still to take the matter of editions a little further. If the second edition of a book contains revision material, it is the first revised edition. This does not alter the fact - and it is imperative to grasp this - that even if there has been no alteration or amendment whatever, and every word is identical, with exactly the same sort of type and format, a new edition is created every time there is a new setting of type. We arrive at the vexed question of 'issue', which is something quite different from impression. A different or 'variant issue' can occur as</p>
 <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p>	<p>part of the first edition</p> <p>when, after some copies have already been published, some alteration is made and even another title-page substituted. We then have two issues of the first edition. The term issue is normally used when it is possible to show beyond any reasonable doubt that the variations occurred after some of the edition had already been published, so that first and second issues (and even more) are recognisable. When priority is not clear and variant copies are, or were, on sale indiscriminately, it is more usual to talk about 'states'. Part of this confusion occurs because, particularly in early centuries, authors were allowed to visit the printers while their books were being run off and to make alterations. It will be noted that, in the case of Lowndes's Bibliographer's Manual, No. 13 above, the publisher has used 'issue' in another sense. This is because the book trade has a habit of using terms less precisely than the bibliographer and collector. Since he was bringing out something in cheap and popular form, involving new type-setting and format, it was clearly a new edition, not another issue of the first edition. At this point let us look back at our whole table of books and, in the light of our examination to date, try to draw some conclusions. It is completely safe to assert, from the evidence given, that half the</p>

	<p>fourteen books (Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13) are not first editions because they carry specific statements about earlier editions and impressions. With another five (Nos. 3, 4, 5, 10, 14), I should regard the evidence that they are 'firsts' as entirely satisfactory because of the coincidence of dates on title, verso, preface, etc. If there were a great discrepancy it would be a matter for thought. This leaves only two (Nos. 1 and 2) where, without further checking, evidence might be considered too slight. Since I can find no copy in such sources as Book Auction Records bearing any other date, I am happy to accept Plomer; and, since I am not much troubled one way or the other, Partington will pass muster without further investigation. (As a matter of fact, a previous owner has pencilled 'First Edition' inside the cover, but, bearing Gaby Goldscheider's confession in mind, what the soldier said is n't evidence.) There are one or two other important points to be borne in mind. As we know, some important and much-collected works were issued in 'parts', usually monthly, before they appeared in book form. It is not perhaps generally realised that this practice began as early as the late seventeenth century and that many of the splendid coloured aquatint books of the nineteenth century first reached the public in this way. Even the celebrated Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management (1859-61) was so issued.' But to book-collectors publication in parts is usually only a matter of much interest with such fiction writers as Dickens, whose <i>Pickwick Papers</i> (to give them their familiar short title) established a great new vogue in 1836-37</p>
--	---