

Book Club Editions

[ctbooks_starcomm_net \(821\)](#) ([view author's auctions](#))

11/08/03 1:35 PM

Book Club Editions

This explanation is the short form.

If you have a book which has a dust jacket and the dust jacket states *Book Club Edition* in the lower corner of the front flap, you have a book club edition unless someone married a dust jacket to another edition.

If you have a book which has a dust jacket and the dust jacket has no price, you might have a book club edition. The university presses are inconsistent about placing prices on their books. It gets a little more complicated, but that will be covered in a later lesson.

If there is a blind-stamp on the rear cover of the book in the form of a circle, or a dot, or a maple leaf, you have a book club edition.

If you have a book which has a notice on the copyright page about Book-of-the-Month Club, not to be confused with Big-Man-On-Campus, you have a book club edition.

[ctbooks_starcomm_net \(821\)](#) ([view author's auctions](#))

11/08/03 1:56 PM (# 1 of 33)

Feel free leap right in here and add information.

[quartzierose \(86\)](#) ([view author's auctions](#))

11/08/03 2:58 PM (# 2 of 33)

Note, the Borzoi blind stamp on the lower right back cover doesn't mean its a BCE.

If everything says its a first and not a BCE, then check the bib (thank you Fine.books), to be absolutely certain it is not a BCE.

bib = bibliography

Also, there are book club editions that are true first editions. Isn't that fun. Someone may come along who knows a few titles to give as an example.

[satnrose \(4060\)](#) ([view author's auctions](#))

11/08/03 3:15 PM (# 3 of 33)

The blindstamp on the rear cover is sometimes in the shape of a square.

The presence of the blindstamp *always* means that the book is considered to be a book club edition regardless of any statement of edition or printing which may be made on the copyright page.

The absence of the bookclub blindstamp does not mean that the book is not a book club edition.

The presence of a solitary "W" on the copyright page means that the book is a book club edition.

There are some book club editions which look exactly the first edition, and can only be determined to be a book club edition by the absence of a price on the dustjacket [not a foolproof method], or the presence of a book club leaflet laid in.

A blurb on the dustjacket that this book is "A Selection of the Book-of=the-Month Club" doesn't usually mean anything one way or the other. However, sometimes it can be an *issue point* to differentiate between different

states of the first printing.

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11/08/03 4:03 PM (# 4 of 33)

Is it back to me again?

You were promised University Press editions. These are a whole lot of fun. If you know for a fact that a university press never issues their books in book club editions, you are home free.

However, certain university presses have books which look exactly the same with notable exceptions in book club editions. Check the rear cover of the book for a blind-stamp. I've located at least two book club editions using that method. [I can't help that they said Oxford and Princeton, they were book club editions.]

Let's say that little method passes inspection. Flip to the copyright page. If it says Book-of-the-Month Club, you are dead meat. I have one which looks like that, too and it sells for the princely sum of about \$4.00 and there are many on the book search sites.

What if it has neither of these identifiers? You still aren't out of deep water. Go to the book search sites and do some basic research. Was this book ever issued as a book club edition?

If it was issued as a book club edition, set the book to one side. It's going to be a problem. The time this happened, I stumbled over the same book at a book sale. I flipped the dust jacket off the back cover, and behold, on the book sale book was a blind-stamp.

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11/08/03 4:30 PM (# 5 of 33)

quartzierose: Any particular bibliographies? Are there any on line which aren't listed in the links?

[quartzierose \(86\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/08/03 5:25 PM (# 6 of 33)

That's a good question Ctbooks. I have no idea. I've always been too afraid to ask about bib sources. Shame on me. Sometimes someone will post a particular bibliography name. The next time they do I will be certain to write it down.

[satnrose \(4060\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/08/03 5:43 PM (# 7 of 33)

I like to use the Author Price Guides by Allen and Patricia Ahearn, which are combination bibliographies with price guides.

The Bibliography of American Literature by Jacob Blanck, et al, is a 9-volume compilation of many bibliographies of American authors.

Brucoli/Clark wrote a 5-volume set called FIRST PRINTINGS OF AMERICAN AUTHORS which is very useful.

After that, there are individual bibliographies of nearly every important author in every language. If you need to know the names of any, I might be able to help. Maybe.....

[quartzierose \(86\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/08/03 7:30 PM (# 8 of 33)

Thank you Satnrose.

I will make good use of the information. Although I have my doubts the small local library will have much, the university library should be a good source for serious bib learning.

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11/09/03 9:09 AM (# 9 of 33)

Questions about book club editions are asked repeatedly. Could we keep this thread posted near the top?

Many book club editions are a smaller size and of inferior quality paper.

[kristolove \(86 \)](#)([view author's auctions](#))

11/09/03 4:27 PM (# 10 of 33)

I've read through all of the threads on this and I still am not sure how I should list my book that states "A Book-of-the-Month-Club Main Edition" and also states that it is a 1st American Edition. Should I just call this out in the details of my auction?

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11/09/03 4:54 PM (# 11 of 33)

kristolove:

satnrose indicated that a blurb on the dust jacket saying "A Selection of Book-of-the-Month-Club" usually doesn't mean anything one way or the other.

Check to see if the dust jacket has a price.

Make sure the book doesn't carry a blind-stamp.

[kristolove \(86 \)](#)([view author's auctions](#))

11/09/03 5:20 PM (# 12 of 33)

no blind stamp that I can see, and a price is listed. thanks!

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11/13/03 8:52 AM (# 13 of 33)

On the other hand, there are actually book club editions which sell for good money. One that comes to mind is J. D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* with the photograph of J. D. Salinger on the rear panel of the dust jacket.

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11/14/03 11:16 AM (# 14 of 33)

The first Book-of-the-Month Club selection was sent out in April 1924 to 4,750 subscribers. The original subscribers agreed to buy 12 books a year at the published price, and they received three additional books for free. Subscription growth was slow, and the number of required books later dropped from 12 to 4. Business was hurt by the Depression, and the club started to offer book "dividends" (buy two, get one free.) Growth was phenomenal in the post-war boom, with over 900,000 members by 1946 when it had its largest printing to date — 512,000 copies of Frederic Wakeman's *The Hucksters*.

In 1950, BOMC Inc. goes public, appearing on the NYSE in 1950 as 'BOK'. The 100,000,000th book is distributed. In 1951, BOMC offers *The Catcher in the Rye* by then little-known author J.D. Salinger, as a Main Selection. Cost is \$3.00.

For more on the history of BOMC as well as the other 30+ general interest and specialty book clubs now owned by Time-warner, click below. The book clubs include Book-of-the-Month Club®, The Literary Guild®, Quality Paperback Book Club®, Doubleday Book Club®, The Mystery Guild®, The Science Fiction Book Club®, and many more.

Book Club History

BTW BOMC is located near me and what an operation that it! They used to have “Community Sales” day but then AOL Time Warner bought them out and joined into a “joint venture” with Doubleday Direct Inc. (owned by Bertelsmann AG) to form “BookSpan” and when I went last spring to the event that had been going on since the beginning of time, a sign said “Cancelled.” I should call.

. . . some of the history of BOMC is directly from their site [BookSpan] and the source of some of the other BOMC is from libreria who cited as his source Book Publishing in America by Charles Madison.

BTW here is what mever, the bookbinder had to say about book clubs...

A repost of mever, a bookbinder

BOMC [Book of the Month Club] often prints and binds wherever the original publisher printed their books. Most BOMC we do here uses the same trim size, paper, etc as the original trade pub. Often times they just tag on to a reprint of regular book (sometimes the first printing! On very popular books which makes the BCE 1st earlier than the Publisher’s 2nd! And actually the same time as the 1st/1st!!). The bullet blind stamp and non-priced covers being the only difference. Same press, binding line, at the same time. Doubleday is different, they usually redo the book down to 5-1/4" x 8", plain endpapers, inexpensive paper, less fancy DJ’s (no foil stamping, embossing, etc.) They are primarily produced at their own plant or here.

—*Collated and Presented by lludwig*

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11/16/03 6:01 PM (# 15 of 33)

Certain book club editions are also first editions.

DOWN IN THE BLACK GANG by Philip Jose Farmer, the BOMC is the true 1st ed.

—*satnrose as reported by lludwig*

Storm of the Century by Stephen King. The first hardback edition was published by BOMC, following the true first PBO.

—*booksid*

[carsonbooks \(1538 \)](#)([view author’s auctions](#))

11/17/03 12:45 AM (# 16 of 33)

Many “genre” fiction 1st’s are published in paperback followed by a hardcover BC edition. (occasionally simultaneously). A few worthwhile examples are: Philip K Dicks “Folix 8”, “Galactic Pot Healer”, “The Preserving Machine”, and “the Golden Man”. Fine copies of these titles will go for \$20-\$30 but lesser copies are probably not worth auctioning.

[droolingpsychoboob \(0 \)](#)([view author’s auctions](#))

11/20/03 9:59 PM (# 18 of 33)

Any idea if a BOMC in ORIGINAL packaging with USPS stamping and address of buyer would up the value of an otherwise ordinary BCE book?

[droolingpsychoboob \(0\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/20/03 10:00 PM (# 19 of 33)

P.S. Era 1960's Mitchener, for example.

[ubikuitous \(0\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/20/03 11:29 PM (# 20 of 33)

Not sure about "original packaging with USPS stamping" but I recently won an auction for a few BOMC coming announcement advertisements called "things to come".

these were "Science Fiction Book Club" insert advertisements that would have been mailed out with the subscriber's monthly shipment. In this case the offering was for 2 different Philip K. Dick book club offerings. I was pleased to win the auction as they add some "history" to my collection. I suppose if I could "upgrade" a book club edition to one with "original packaging" I probably would, as long as it didn't cost me too much...

[ubikuitous \(0\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/21/03 11:53 PM (# 21 of 33)

serendipitously, two examples sited in post #16 are just currently listed: Philip K. Dick's "Frolix 8" and "The Golden Man"... it will be interesting to see if carsonbook's estimate's are met!

ps: I have no connection to the listings and in fact already own pristine examples of each. And I can attest that they are difficult to find in fine condition... (although common in "average" condition)!

[lludwig \(4591\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/23/03 3:54 AM (# 22 of 33)

Bookclubs that are frequently mistaken as First Editions:

Animal Farm by George Orwell. It must state "First American Edition. " The first American edition was in black cloth; the book club in green.

The green BC does have a tiny pin dot on the back at the bottom next to the spine, but the pin dot is easier to feel than to see it. In my early days of bookhunting, I learned the hard way...a bookseller had marked a BC as a first. I still have that copy! A quick check of ebay shows at least one seller who states the covers are green and that it is a first edition.

[quartzierose \(86\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/23/03 4:57 AM (# 23 of 33)

I hope this thread will be saved. I'm making a list of BCEs that are first, and those that are not.

Thank you Ctbooks.

[reesasmonkey \(142\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/23/03 5:56 AM (# 24 of 33)

Hello,

Can anyone shed a bit more light on Borzoi Books?

I had been told that Knopf produces strictly reprints under the Borzoi label, but are there also Borzoi true first editions?

[lludwig \(4591\)](#) [\(view author's auctions\)](#)

11/23/03 6:09 AM (# 25 of 33)

Yes they do publish First editions. A number of their authors have won various book awards including the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize.

Their history is interesting, esp. how the Borzoi logo came about. Knopf liked a windmill that he had seen used by another company and decided to adopt the borzoi as his logo. I also found the original borzoi Reader to be interesting reading.

Below is from their web site with a link to the history

“In 1960 Alfred A. Knopf became part of Random House, Inc., which is now the world’s largest English-language trade book publisher. Random House is a division of Bertelsmann AG, one of the foremost global media companies.”

<http://www.randomhouse.com/knopf/about/>

[reesasmonkey \(142\)](#) (view author’s auctions)

11/23/03 6:43 AM (# 26 of 33)

Thanks lludwig-don’t know why I didn’t think to google it myself.

I often run across Borzoi’s-but never know if I should grab them or not.

Time to catch up on some research!

[yankeeancestry \(1113\)](#) (view author’s auctions)

11/23/03 2:58 PM (# 27 of 33)

re Borzoi blind impress and AAK -

I have a BCE Lincoln and His Generals that has a Borzoi mark where its supposed to be BUT also has the roundish indent BCE mark just below it.

Sometimes, production would just switch cloth material (say, dark blue for trade to red for BCE) and then add the BCE mark & change nothing else. Sometimes, there’s no Borzoi mark and no BCE dent. Without DJ, who can say, except that I’ve never seen an AAK that says “First Edition” or “First American Edition” and also has the BCE dent. I think they were pretty good about getting the slug off. By the way, during the 1950s & 1960s more than several AAK titles sold through certain book clubs, History Book Club in particular WERE simply trade editions with the price clipped.

50th Reader is still a great read.

Guess who was the FIRST American publisher of T. S. Eliot!

RMG

[lludwig \(4591\)](#) (view author’s auctions)

11/25/03 4:16 AM (# 28 of 33)

BCE First Editions:

The first hardbound edition of *The Dune Encyclopedia* by Dr. Wills McNelly was a Book Club Edition. The book was first published as a paperback. Both the PBO and the BCE were published by Berkley in 1984.

Several years ago I sold on ebay 2 copies of the PBO in good condition for \$50+.

[adderbolt \(1681\)](#) ([view author's auctions](#))

11/25/03 4:39 AM (# 29 of 33)

Any response to

POST 18 ...

I've more than once

Bought collections

Of still-in-the-mailing-package

Book Club Editions ...

Complete ... with inserts ...

Other than the obvious condition

I've never attributed

Extra value to these ...

Am I missing the boat here ...

[psthomas \(918\)](#) ([view author's auctions](#))

12/06/03 3:04 PM (# 33 of 33)

True story.

Modern first editions dealer buys a book off the net (1996-1997 time frame). Gets the book. It's a bookclub. He calls the other dealer about returning the book. During the course of the conversation, the seller says...

The blindstamp in the lower back corner is the proof that the book is the true first edition.

Ignorant sellers are not a new thing.