

Paperback First Edition? [real_life_wally \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 2:25 PM

Hello,I got an email from somebody about one of my paperbacks listed (this is my board ID), asking whether it was a first edition. I've never heard of such a thing. Are there paperback first editions?Thanks,"Wally"Ö

[nora.cbks \(532\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 2:50 PM (# 1 of 19)

Great "ME" page, OP!

[real_life_wally \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 3:01 PM (# 2 of 19)

Hello again,Paperback Original? Would that mean the first paperback edition? The person who emailed me was thinking this was the First Edition, not just the first paperback edition."Wally"1

[satnrose \(3485\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 3:04 PM (# 3 of 19)

Most of the neglected American master Jim Thompson's books were first published in paperback, and were not issued in hardcover until many years later. Some others: John D. MacDonald, David Goodis, Harlan Ellison, Philip K. Dick, "Chuckles" Willeford, Day Keene, Ed Wood, Jr., and many others. Also, some major authors had collections of stories that were first published in paperback, such as Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler. Also, some authors did hack writing [with pseudonyms] of books that were only published in paperback. [Did you know Gore Vidal wrote romance novels?] The term "paperback original" is what the specialists use. Other terms include "paperback first edition". This is not to be confused with the terms "paperback edition published simultaneously with the hardcover edition" [such as *Gravity's Rainbow*], or "first paperback edition" which is usually a reprint edition. Clear as Mudd? Oddly enough, usually a "paperback original" is worth less than the "first edition in hardcover", even if said hardcover is published years later than the true first. [For example: *The Sirens of Titan*]

[boodust \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 3:10 PM (# 4 of 19)

Many authors were first issued in paperback format. These first issues in paperback are true first editions. Many highly collected authors have titles which are paperback originals , or First Editions. To name just three : Stephen King William Burroughs Philip K. Dick Values can run very high, but just as in hardcover firsts the first , second and third rules of collecting are Condition, condition and condition. In paperbacks such things as spine creasing, spine roll, lack of laminate , edge nicks, corner creases and paper toning (and other things) all are factors which affect value. Cover art is an important factor in paperback collecting, but plays less of a role in paperbacks collected as firsts because of their authors.

[boodust \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 3:14 PM (# 5 of 19)

seated and got up ... cross postin'! aye there is muckle to collect in paperbacks.... *Chuckles* Willeford....ha ha ... I was just thinking of putting something of his up for auction

[satnrose \(3485\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 3:22 PM (# 6 of 19)

boodust: What is the most valuable of the modern paperback books? Answer in "invisible ink":

<http://contact.ebay.com/aw-cgi/>

[eBayISAPI.dll?ReturnUserEmail&requested=ctbooks@starcomm.net \(810\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 4:17 PM (# 7 of 19)

One of the problems I have with paperbacks is that they are so fragile: pages are browned and brittle, front and rear covers are usually damaged. It is my understanding that they were never meant to be permanent, but more of the "throw-away" variety.

[keithwease \(788\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 7:52 PM (# 8 of 19)

A lot of modern authors once were 'paperback writers.' Some of them sell for big bucks and others you can't give away. Michael Crichton wrote three paperbacks under the name John Lange, before his first hardback, *A Case of Need*, in 1968 under the name Jeffrey Hudson. His first one sells in the three figures. Once *A Case of Need* won an Edgar Award, he didn't have to settle for paperbacks again (although I think he wrote one more

before the Edgar was awarded). James Patterson's second book, *Season of the Machete*, was a paperback (which nobody seems to want - I've had one listed forever). Then his first book won an Edgar and he also never settled for a paperback again. One of my favorite authors, Donald Hamilton, never did get one of his Matt Helm books published in hardback, even though they made two movies and a TV series out of the series. His PBOs are practically worthless.

[boodust \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/02/03 8:38 PM (# 9 of 19)

Aye, the first **Pocket Book**, *The Good Earth*, was floated as a marketing experiment in an edition of a mere 2,000 copies. Bob DeGraff, whose baby **Pocket Books** was, distributed them free of charge along with a questionnaire to gauge the market. I guess we know the results of the questionnaire. Copies which still have the questionnaire accompanying the book are worth even more! I have seen the book, but never the questionnaire. It was later reissued as No. 11. The first 20 numbered **Pocket Books**, issued in 1939 :*Lost Horizon* by James Hilton *Wake Up and Live!* by Dorothea Brande *Five Great Tragedies* by William Shakespeare *Topper* by Thorne Smith *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie *Enough Rope* by Dorothy Parker *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë *The Way of All Flesh* by Samuel Butler *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder *Bambi* by Felix Salten *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck *Great Short Stories* by Guy de Maupassant *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens *The Story of Mankind* by Henrick Willem van Loon *Green Mansions* by W. H. Hudson *The Chinese Orange Mystery* by Ellery Queen *Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi *Abraham Lincoln* by Lord Charnwood *The Return of the Native* by Thomas Hardy That's not too shoddy a beginning! From 1939 to 1941 **Pocket Books** published 100 titles. In 1941 **Avon Books** published their first titles. They were immediately sued by **Pocket Books**. The first 10 **Avon Books** : *Elmer Gantry* by Sinclair Lewis *The Rubáiyat of Omar Khayyam* translated by Edward Fitzgerald *The Big Four* by Agatha Christie *Ill Wind* by James Hilton *Dr. Priestly Investigates* by John Rhode *The Haunted Hotel and 25 Other Ghost Stories* by Wilkie Collins *The Plague Court Murders* by John Dickson Carr *The Corpse in the Green Pajamas Willful and Premeditated* by Freeman Wills Croft *Dr. Thorndyke's Discovery* by R. Austin Freeman *Count Bruga* by Ben Hecht *Mosquitoes* by William Faulkner Not too shoddy, that, either ... I went to 12 because I wanted to include Faulkner.

[satnrose \(3485\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/03/03 8:23 AM (# 10 of 19)

In the book *Collectible Vintage Paperbacks at Auction 1995* Gorgon Books included a list of the top auctions: Pocketbooks nn **THE GOOD EARTH** Dell 278 2ND CROSSWORD PUZZLES L.A. Bantam 21 **THE SHADOW** Pocketbooks 5 **THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD** Dell 205 CROSSWORD PUZZLES Diversey 1 **REFORM SCHOOL GIRL** Whitman 556 **PINOCCHIO** Avon 162 CROSSWORDS AND CRYPTOGRAMS World Fantasy 2 **THE WHISPERING GORILLA** Sphere 8480 **KING BLOOD** Lion 99 **THE KILLER INSIDE ME** Harlequin 102 **WREATH FOR A REDHEAD** Armed Service O-22 **THE RETURN OF TARZAN** Newstand 54 **HEED THE THUNDER** Digit 230 **THE DEADLY STREETS** L.A. Bantam 26 **BLUE GERANIUM** Mayflower A-6 **THE MAN IN THE CAGE** Reed Nightstand 3003 **SEX GANG** Flamingo 1 **SMART GIRLS DON'T TALK** Chartered 21 **SEVEN SLAYERS** Yogi Mystery 1 **DEATH FROM NOWHERE** Cherry Tree 409 **TYPEWRITER IN THE SKY** Ballantine 54 **THE BOUNTY HUNTERS** Ace D-15 **JUNKIE** Beacon 175 **LUST IS A WOMAN** Hillman 41 **THE DYING EARTH**

[real_life_wally \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/03/03 4:40 PM (# 11 of 19)

Good evening! Boy, what a fabulous group of replies to my question. Thanks very much to everyone."Wally"É

[real_life_wally \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/03/03 4:41 PM (# 12 of 19)

Hello again, Just want to say I have no idea where all those extra little characters come from at the end of my posts!

[prisonministry \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/03/03 4:50 PM (# 13 of 19)

I'm somewhat new to this forum, but have been doing a "crash" course in reading past threads and have learned quite a bit. This topic sort of caught my attention. Didn't Simon & Shuster actually start the whole paperback thing with their experimental Inner Sanctum Novels? As I recall, they came with different colored paper

bindings (color coded to genre), and if you decided the book was a keeper, you sent it back to them and they rebound it with a "traditional" binding.prisonministry

[bluecastlebooks \(155\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/03/03 5:03 PM (# 14 of 19)

Paperbacks existed long before Simon & Schuster.In 1862 Beadle & Adams began publishing dime novels. See [A Short History of Paperbacks](#).

[prisonministry \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/03/03 5:35 PM (# 15 of 19)

bluecastlebooks Thanks for that link, very informative.

[boodust \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/03/03 7:38 PM (# 16 of 19)

I am in the process now of appraising a library that extends back some centuries (even a few documents dating from the reign of King Richard II...which, I have to say, are exciting to handle!). This family kept every little item, bless their souls. Amongst the lot are a number of books from the late 18th and early 19th centuries which are bound with paper covers. It is clear that these *are* the covers. They *can* be called paperbacks. Some have the title written in ink on the spine or front. Some have printed title labels. Some are mereley blank. One might consider them pamphlets, but they are stitched with the cover a paper different from that used for the text. I'd call them paperbacks, although that was not a term invented till much later. I have frequently found old late eighteenth and nineteenth century books with printed paper covers. Some of them very solidly done. A lot of them, of course were meant for later rebinding. I will buy anything I see from that period with paper covers.And... I will mention board bindings.... though these are not paperbacks, but in a way I see them as related since they were so often presented as books to be rebound in leather or other sturdier formats: I would just add that I'll also buy anything in the first quarter of the 19th century and earlier which is bound in board. I would much rather have Cooper's first book, *Precaution*(1820) in the two volumes bound in the original publishers board (complete with publisher's disclaimer as to Cooper's grammatical abilities) than in a fancier rebound leather edition. That's just my taste, so don't the rest of you start snapping them up!A lot of this library is eighteenth & nineteenth century medical and 18th century agricultural with a strong element of hard sciences, a few text from the seventeenth. . Many of the books are board-bound. There is a feel to these old books... when the conservator is through with them it will be an impressive concentration.The appraisal, by the way is a strict appraisal, since the entire collection...books, letters, diaries, deeds, indentures, documents...has been donated to a major library. It is the most fun I have had in a while!You know every family has history and stuff , but it is usually spotty - a diary here, a few letters there, a collection of books, a few documents. But it is rare to have such an unbroken record of a little more than 200 years in diaries, letters, scapbooks, documents, photographs and such ... two centuries! Family farm and town life in England and America like an unbroken river flowing from the dim past to the late twentieth century. Two centuries. A goldmine of information ...social, historical, and personal. Sigh.... I love my work!

[jollycodger \(9\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/04/03 4:58 PM (# 17 of 19)

Ah, they gave it all to a library. How depressing.... Don't suppose it will show up at FOL sale?

[boodust \(0\) \(view author's auctions\)](#)03/04/03 8:20 PM (# 18 of 19)

No...there is a special stipulation that the entire collection be kept together. Smart, that. The library is smart... they want this stuff...for the archival department there is years of work and research. A book or two , possibly.Tonight ... Among other things, going through old magazines from the 1840's . Lots of first appearances of A. E. Poe ~ stories (*Fall of the House of Usher; Murders in the Rue Morgue, Descent into the Maelström, Never Bet Your Head*) and articles....and poems (*Conqueror Worm , To Helen, Israfil*) ... Plus his review of the poetry of Mr. Ward (praised by the *Knickerbocker* magazine and persons of "leisure" as Poe calls them) in which Poe literally demolishes Ward. It is one of the most vicious reviews ever written and absolutely delicious! Also a great article in which Poe presented a **good** many samples of the signatures of famous people of his day (mostly literary and societal sorts) and proceeded to disembowel their characters. (Well he doesn't slay everyone, but I bet people ate it up) **Graphology** he called it.Also an interesting article of his on Secret Writing. A most satisfying evening.

satnrose (3485) ([view author's auctions](#))03/15/03 10:58 AM (# 19 of 19)

The paper wraps first edition of UNCLE TOM'S CABIN is worth more than the hardcover first edition.