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### Collecting First Edition Books - Biblio

A general rule is that if the number 1 is listed, the book is a first edition. But take note: Sometimes publishers include the words "first edition" next to the number line, even if the book was on its third printing, according to Abe Books' website. A number 3 would indicate this (First Edition 3 4 5 6 7 8).

### Book Collecting Guide: Identifying and Collecting First ...

For publishers, "first edition" may just mean the first version of the text, without significant revisions. Many publishers will print the hardcover edition of a book and call that a first edition, then print the same text in paperback and call it a first edition as well.

### How to Identify First Edition Books

**First Separate Edition-** The first appearance as a complete book or pamphlet of a work that has previously appeared as part of another book. **First Thus -** Means not a first edition, but something is new. It may be revised, have a new introduction by the author or someone else, be the first publication in paperback form, or first by another publisher.

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**What is a First Edition?** In the simplest terms, a first edition is the first commercially distributed version of a book. For the purposes of modern collectible books, first edition is shorthand for the first printing of the first edition of a work.

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The first edition refers to a book's first printing run. For some blockbuster titles, this can be as many as 50,000 copies or more. But for older books, or books originally published by small imprints, the first run may have been as few as 100 copies.

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**Identifying the First Edition of a Book.** The publisher may actually state the words 'first edition' or 'first printing' on the copyright page. Another common method of identification is the number line – that's a line of numbers on the copyright page. Usually, if a one is present in the line then it's a first edition.

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**What is a First Edition Book?** In publishing terms, a first edition book is all copies that were printed from the same setting of type as when first published.

The book is only described as a second edition if significant changes are made to the copy. In collecting terms, a general definition of 1st edition book would be a work's first commercially available appearance in book form, printed with the original setting of type.

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[Somerset Maugham - Any first editions in dustjackets](#) [Wyndham Lewis - Most first editions before 1950.](#) [Yann Martel - Life of Pi UK or Canadian first editions with full numberline](#)

The first editions worth most tend to be those published in small quantities – for example, an author's first books, published before she was well-known. Another example would be a small-press or mimeo publication by a much-collected poet.

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First edition most often refers to the first commercial publication of a work between its own covers, even if it was first printed in a periodical: the complete text of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* appeared in the September 1, 1952 issue of *Life*, yet the generally accepted "first" edition is the hardcover book Scribner's published on September 8, 1952.

[Edition \(book\) - Wikipedia](#)

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