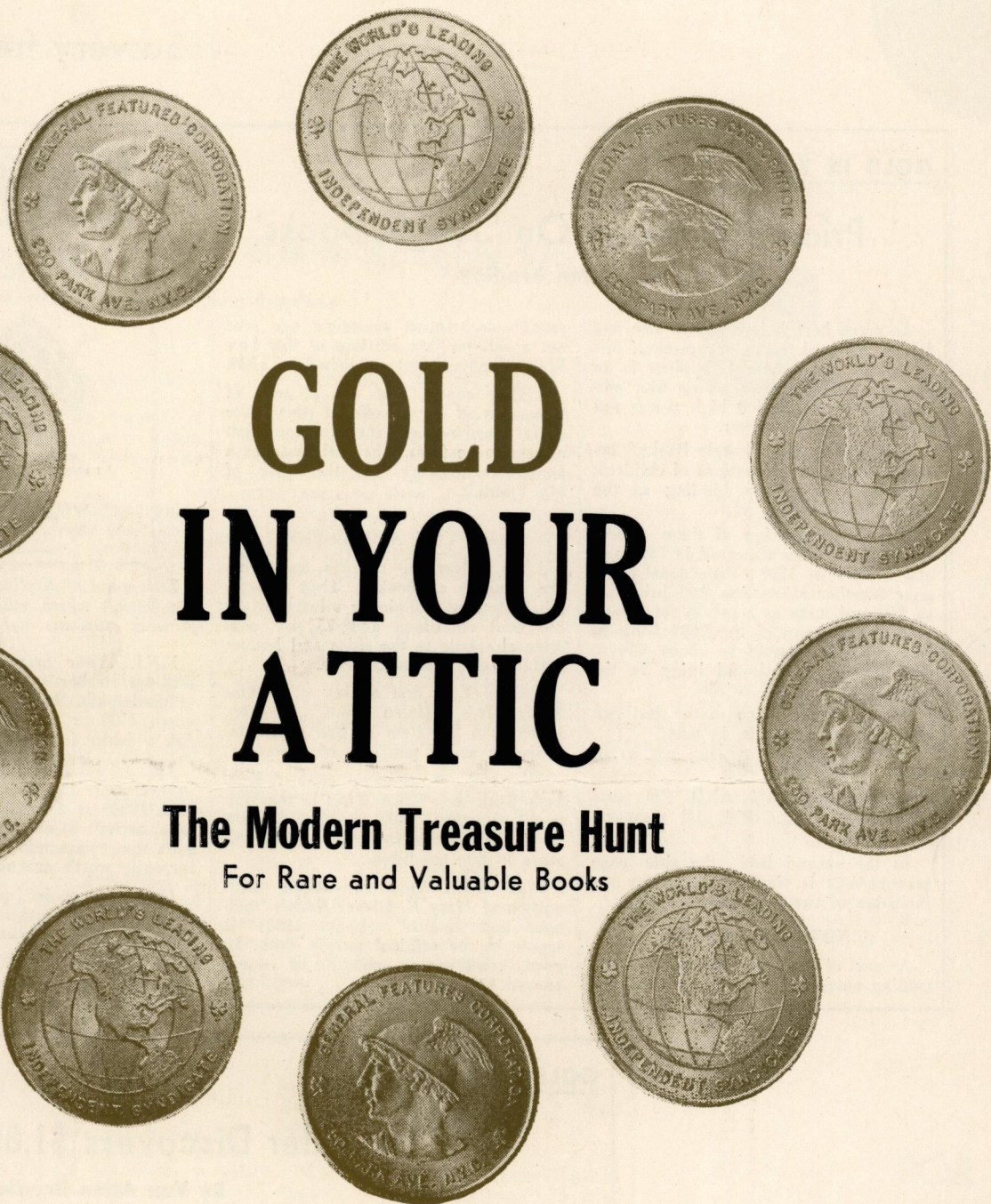


FRESHLY MINTED for SUNDAY READERS



GOLD IN YOUR ATTIC

The Modern Treasure Hunt
For Rare and Valuable Books

by

Van Allen Bradley

The Distinguished Literary Editor of the Chicago Daily News

A RARE BOOK COLUMN WITH MASS APPEAL



A COLUMN AS RARE AS THE BOOKS IT UNCOVERS

So very fresh and new that it has not been imitated yet



GOLD IN YOUR ATTIC

Price Still Good On 'Jungle Books'

By Van Allen Bradley

As noted here before, prices rise and fall in the book collector's market, just as in the stock market. Kipling is an example of an author whose first editions once commanded high prices but are now generally lower.

Nevertheless, the "Jungle Books," beloved of several generations of children, still bring on lively bidding at the book auction sales.

The first collection of these animal stories and verses appeared in 1894 and the second in 1895. They usually appear together at auction and bring up to \$50 and more as a set. A fair retail price for a copy of the 1894 book in fine condition should be about \$50 to \$60. The second should bring in the neighborhood of \$25 to \$30.

The plain title page of the first edition of the first reads, in part:

THE JUNGLE BOOK. BY RUDYARD KIPLING . . . London
MACMILLAN AND CO. and
New York. 1894. All right reserved.

In the second book, the title page arrangement is similar, except for the inclusion of two decorative drawings.

A NOTE ON 'BEN-HUR'

As part of its promotion for its forthcoming movie, 'Ben-Hur,' the MGM re-

search department sometime ago sent out a call for first editions of this Lew Wallace novel, first published in 1880.

They report that out of tens of thousands of copies offered, they have so far received only three or four that appear to be firsts. The real first has a simple dedication: "To the Wife of My Youth."

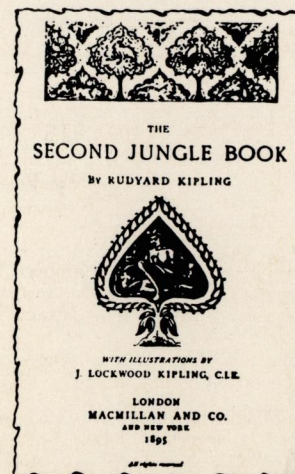
HAVE YOU A QUESTION?

J.M.: Silverfish, roaches and ants are enemies of books. They can be eliminated by applying a solution of 25 per cent chlordane and 75 per cent mineral spirits to the sides and bottom surfaces of your bookshelves.

K.C.B.: Your first edition of Horatio Alger, Jr.'s "Helen Ford" (Boston, 1866) is a \$10 item in fine condition. A dealer would pay less, of course.

Miss L.R.: Your uncut copy of Kenneth Grahame's "The Wind in the Willows" (London, 1908) appears to be a first edition. It is worth around \$50 or more in fine condition.

Mrs. W.L.: Your two-volume third edition of Mary B. Glover Eddy's "Science and Health" (Lynn, 1882) is scarce in the original purple cloth. In good condition it should be worth around \$100 at retail.



Title page of Kipling's "Second Jungle Book," which still brings a good price at auction.

F.A.I.: Your first edition of Henry William Herbert's "My Shooting Box" (Philadelphia, 1846) is a nice item, worth \$100 or more in fine condition. Ask a dealer for half.

J.B.: Your Maurice S. Sullivan's "Travels of Jedediah Smith" (Santa Ana, 1934) is a scarce item of Americana, as well as an example of a recent book that commands a good price. It is currently worth around \$75 at retail.

(Selected reader questions will be answered in this column. Address: Van Allen Bradley, in care of this newspaper.)

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GOLD IN YOUR ATTIC

'Uncle Remus' First Worth Roughly \$75

By Van Allen Bradley

Joel Chandler Harris' famous book, "Uncle Remus," a longtime favorite of adults and children, is an example of a literary work that grows in importance — and in monetary value — with the passage of years.

Harris' Uncle Remus stories brought the folk tales of the Negro into literature and thus have been credited with laying the foundation for the scientific study of Negro folklore. They began as columns in the Atlanta Constitution and first appeared in book form in 1881.

The title page of the rare first issue of the first edition reads, in part:

UNCLE REMUS/ HIS SONGS
AND HIS SAYINGS/ THE FOLK-
LORE OF THE OLD PLANTA-
TION/ By JOEL CHANDLER
HARRIS/ . . . NEW YORK/ . . .
1881.

The identifying point of the first issue is the absence of any mention of the book in the advertisements at the back. A fine copy is worth roughly \$75 at retail, the usual worn copies around \$25.

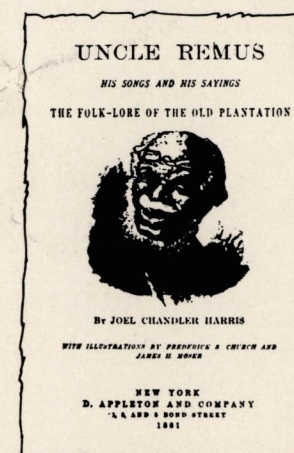
HAVE YOU A QUESTION?

Mrs. H. J. R.: Time and again I have emphasized that condition is the biggest influence in determining the price a rare book will bring. Here is a perfect example, from a leading dealer's catalog: A mint (perfect) copy of the rare first issue of Florence Nightingale's "Notes on Nursing" (London, 1859) lists at \$27.50. Immediately following this item there is an entry, "Another copy . . . covers rubbed and loose in binding, \$5."

J. L.: Your Richard Briggs' "The New Art of Cookery" (Philadelphia, 1798) is a scarce cookbook, worth around \$40 to \$50 in good condition.

M. S.: Your Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventure in Wonderland" (New York, 1866) is the first American edition. It was featured in an earlier column. A perfect copy is worth up to \$500.

Miss B. L.: The first issue of the first edition of E. W. Howe's "The Story of a Country Town" (Atchison, 1883) should have "D. Caldwell, Manufacturer" stamped inside the front cover. It is worth around \$45 in fine condition.



Title page of a rare first issue, first edition of "Uncle Remus," which accumulates literary and monetary importance with the years.

L. E. F.: Your paperbound copy of "Narrative of the Sufferings of Lewis Clarke" (Boston, 1845) is a scarce item, worth around \$15 at retail.

Mrs. M. B.: Your thin paper copy of Thomas Gray's "Odes" (Strawberry Hill, 1757) is a first edition, worth roughly \$50 at retail.

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HUNDREDS
OF
LETTERS
WEEKLY

GOLD IN YOUR ATTIC

Reader Discovers \$1,800 Paperback

By Van Allen Bradley

Week after week, as you read here about the fabulous rarities in the world of books, you may shake your head and say, "That could never happen to me."

But don't be too sure.

Some weeks ago, W. Warren Curtis, a reader in Holyoke, Mass., mailed in for my examination an anonymous 32-page paperbound booklet that had been passed down in his family.

A few nights later I had the pleasure of telephoning him an offer of \$1,800 for it on behalf of Kenneth Nebenzahl, a Chicago specialist dealer in rare Americana.

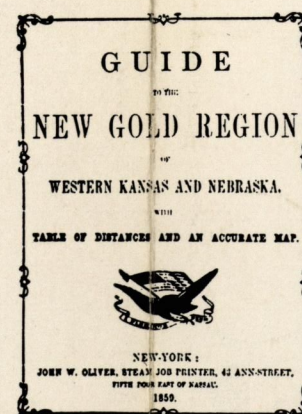
It so happened that, until the discovery of Mr. Curtis' copy, there were

only two known copies of this Western rarity in complete form. Two other incomplete copies are also known to exist.

Because it is historically important as a Pike's Peak guidebook, it is a highly desirable collector's item. The cover title reads, in part:

GUIDE TO THE NEW GOLD
REGION OF WESTERN KAN-
SAS AND NEBRASKA . . . NEW
YORK: . . . JOHN W. OLIVER
. . . 1859

The dealer's price was in effect a "wholesale" offer but a fair one, which I advised Mr. Curtis to accept. When Mr. Nebenzahl lists the booklet in his next catalog, it will probably bear a price tag of around \$2,800 to \$3,000.



Title page of a rare Americana item, a paperback which recently brought \$1,800.

HAVE YOU A QUESTION?

Miss A.F.C.: Your paperbound copy of George Horace Lorimer's "Letters from a Self-Made Merchant to His Son" (Philadelphia, 1901) is the scarce first edition. It is worth roughly \$15 to \$20 at retail.

J.L.: As I pointed out in my recent book, there are often wide discrepancies in the prices asked by various dealers for the same title. These differences usually are accounted for by the factor of condition. Fine copies bring high prices; poor copies, poor prices.

Mrs. M. W.: Your Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" (San Francisco, 1879) is a first edition, worth roughly \$75 to \$100. The first issue did not contain the slip referring to the reviews.

J.D.: Among the modern writers whose early books are most likely to bring high prices in the future, I would

nominate William Faulkner, Robert Frost, Ernest Hemingway, T. S. Eliot and the late Dylan Thomas.

Miss N.G.R.: Your Oliver Wendell Holmes' "Over the Teacups" (Boston, 1891) is a first edition, worth roughly \$50 in fine condition.

O.O.: Your Lee Nelson's "Three Years Among the Comanches" (Albany, 1859) is a rare paperbound Indian captivity item. It is worth roughly \$150 in fine condition. Ask a dealer for half.

L.J.S.: Your "Female Life Among the Mormons" (New York, 1856) is mildly scarce and worth about \$10 at retail. The author was Maria Ward.

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FOR
EVERYONE
WHO
OWNS A
BOOK



Gold In Your Attic not only draws the literary minded but offers an effective pull for the average reader who wonders if he has rare books in his attic.



Gold In Your Attic can make your paper the literary authority in your area . . . No. 1 prestige feature in a nation of rapidly expanding literary appreciation.



Gold In Your Attic is written by the nation's rare book authority, Van Allen Bradley, the distinguished literary editor of the Chicago Daily News and author of several important books.



Gold In Your Attic, backed by Bradley's years of hard-hitting newspaper experience, will capture and **RETAIN** readership missed by the average weekend feature.



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