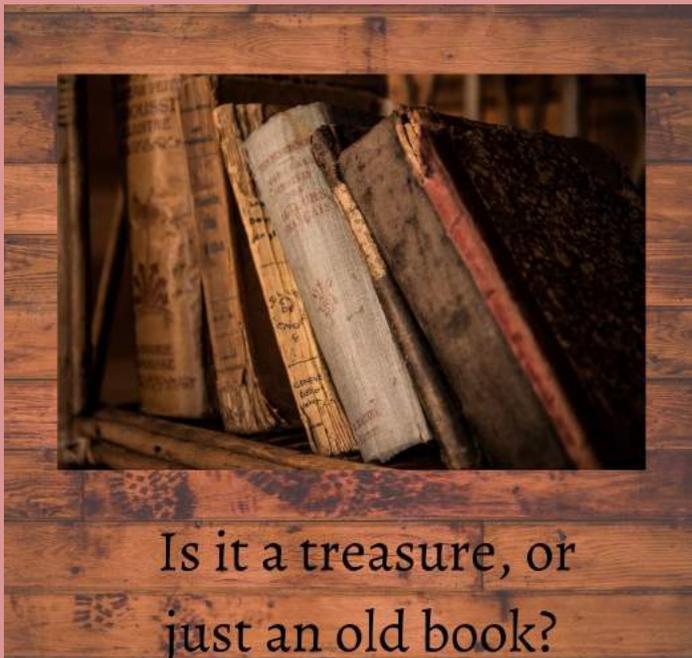


The Dragon's Scribe

J.L. Henker, Author – Quarterly Newsletter



How it Began:

Years ago I worked as a buyer for used/rare books at a local independent bookstore. I learned at the elbow of an experienced & detail-oriented buyer (thank you Ken) & found the research thrilling.

What valuable treasures do you have on your shelf? Following are some tips to help you get started on researching their value.

Evaluating Old, Collectible & Rare Books

Have you ever bought an old book at a yard sale or flea market? Did you assume that because it was old and in good condition it might be worth some money? The truth is, most old books are just that...old books. However it is still possible to find titles that have value. You may have some sitting on your shelf right now, or possibly have inherited books from a relative that you want to research.

With a little time and energy you can find out whether or not you have a treasure or something for the donation bag.

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Determining Condition

As you begin your research you'll notice that book conditions are graded. The ratings are:

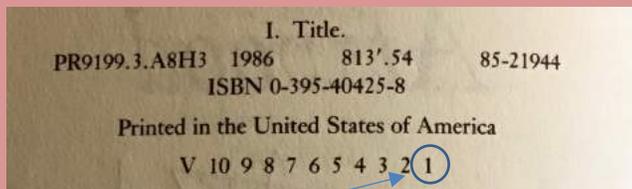
- Fine/Like New (F)
- Near Fine (NF)
- Very Good (VG)
- Good (G)
- Fair (F)
- Poor (P)

[Click here for detailed descriptions of these categories.](#)

Your treasure will need to be Very Good or better to have any collectible value. If it has water damage, smells like tobacco or mold, or is falling apart, it's considered Poor condition. For serious collectors, condition is everything. If it falls below the Very Good rating, it will decrease dramatically in value.

Is it a First Edition?

This can be fairly easy to determine on contemporary works. Look at the title page. You should see a bar of numbers that look like this:



The number 1 tells us it's a first edition (probably). If the number 1 is missing, it's a second issue and so on.

First editions are all important in the book collecting world. For example, a first edition of *Charlotte's Web* is worth \$1,200. A second edition is worth about \$50. Find out what [specific title page notations determine a first.](#)

Does it have a Dust Jacket?

If it was issued with a dust jacket, it must have one in good condition or it's rarely collectible.

What is Current Value?

For most titles, a basic internet search can give you a fairly good idea of what a specific book might be worth. Begin with *Amazon* and *eBay*. That's the fastest way to see the range of prices. This will work well with most newer titles.

If you have something that predates International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs were first used in 1966) or is a first edition of a famous contemporary author, it will require more digging. Here you'll want to check where most professional book dealers list titles: <https://www.abebooks.com>. Be aware that prices here can be inflated. You'll want to check other sources as well.

If you're having trouble finding your title, go to <https://www.bookfinder.com>

It's Worth a Lot...Now What?

Take it to your local rare/collectible book dealer. Many will give you an estimate for free and offer services sell highly collectible treasures for a commission. It's always best to check with the experts.

What if you have a first edition Steven King or Margaret Atwood? For more contemporary authors you should be able to determine value with the above resources. If you want to try and sell yourself, I recommend *eBay*. They have an auction function, so there's the possibility of a bidding war, and a nice profit. Be sure and list condition carefully, noting any defects and take good pictures.

If you have questions about a specific book, email me at: jlhenkerauthor@gmail.com

Additional Resources:

Do a quick value search at Biblio.com.

More details about what to consider at Flipsy.

Does an author signature [increase book value?](#)

Author Spotlight #1: Helen Schuerer

Lair of Bones (2021)

(★★★★★ – Goodreads)



After completing her successful first series, *The Oremere Chronicles*, she admitted being nervous about launching a new one. Asked if she learned from writing her first series she said, *I learned a lot by writing and publishing The Oremere Chronicles, mainly the importance of outlining. I approached Curse of the Cyren Queen a lot more methodically, I outlined the entire series... There was a lot more forethought, and I learned to pace myself when it came to the worldbuilding stage as well.*

Review:

Stunning world building, unexpected friendships & surprising outcomes. It's a tale of a lowest of the low, doubly-cursed young woman striving to escape her terrible reality amidst a world of have-nots and excess. She dreams of leaving the underworld world of bones and grime for a better life through the queen's tournament. The winner will become the next ruler. Her captive mother is mad, the upper-classes are trying to sabotage her, but she's smart & tough. Can she succeed?

Helen's webpage: <https://helenschuerer.com>

Follow her on Twitter: @helenschuerer

Author Spotlight #2: Vonnie Winslow Crist

Dragon Rain (2021)

(★★★★ – Goodreads)



Vonnie and I conneted on Twitter over our love of dragons. I was thrilled to discover that she had written an entire book of dragons stories, highlighting her broad knowledge of world mythology.

Review:

Do you think you know a lot about dragons? Read this impressive collection of dragon stories to find out how much more there is to discover about their magic and mythology. Vonnie's knowledge of myth and fantasy shines through in her stories full of danger, wonder, treachery and love; each unique and surprising.

Our most prevalent stories are of large, fire breathing beasts that wreak havoc on the countryside and steal farmers livestock. There's so much more to explore. Travel through time and cultures, from China to the Louisiana Bayou to meet shapeshifters, enchanted beings, lake dwellers, royalty, tricksters and time travelers--dragons beyond anything you might have imagined. A must read for all dragon lovers!

Vonnie's webpage:

<https://www.vonniewinslowcrist.com>

Follow her on Twitter: @VonnieWCrist

Contest Corner

Congratulations to Krista W. (Twitter: @kristawallace) winner of the \$25 gift certificate to Powells City of Books. She is a writer, blogger and podcaster. Find out more at: <https://kristawallace.com>. Thanks to everyone who signed up for the newsletter. If your dragon magnet hasn't arrived, please let me know.

Winter Contest – Doctor Who DVDs & Bling

New contest begins December 1st. Enter for a chance to win a set of DVDs (Doctor Who, Series 1 Volume 1) and a Tardis necklace.

Two ways to win: refer a friend to my newsletter email list (one entry for each successful referral) and/or recommend my newsletter on Twitter (email me a snapshot of post).

Drawing to be held March 1, 2022



COMING IN THE MARCH ISSUE:

- Using all aspects of social media to enrich your author platform
- Indie & small press *Author Spotlights*
- Another exciting contest/giveaway

Website: <https://jlhenker.com>

Twitter: @jlhenker

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jlhenker>

Facebook Group: [Dragonshire – A Community of Dragon Lovers](#)