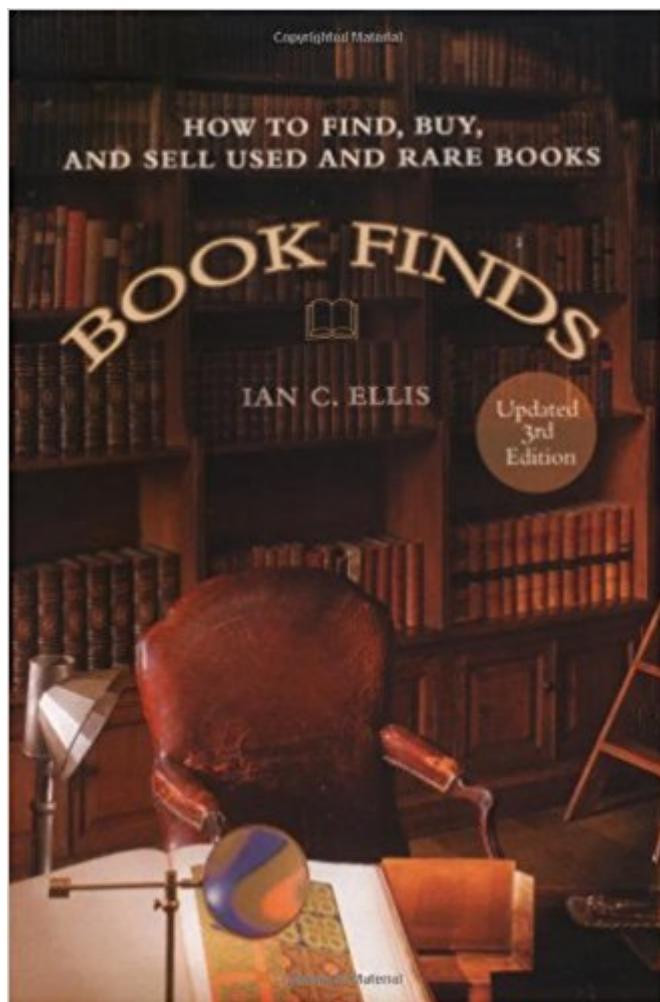


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Book Finds: How To Find, Buy, And Sell Used And Rare Books



Synopsis

For the experienced collector or someone embarking on a new hobby, this newly revised and updated edition of Book Finds reveals the secrets of locating rare and valuable books. Includes information on first editions and reader's copies, auctions and catalogs, avoiding costly and common beginner mistakes, strategies of professional "book scouts," and buying and selling on the Internet.

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Customer Reviews

Ian C. Ellis has been working as a book dealer for more than 20 years, haunting bookstores around the world. He currently specializes in science fiction and mysteries.

The following is simply a quick, general gloss of this book rather than a point-by-point review of the specifics contained therein. I'll preface my comments by acknowledging that I read this book about five years ago, although I have it in front of me now. My copy makes no mention of "edition" in the title so I am assuming mine is the first paperback edition. Even five years ago, as a nascent and budding bibliophile and collector, I remember realizing that the information for buying and selling used books contained in this "how to" guide was seriously dated and pre-internet. In fact, the only computer-related index entry refers to computer technology in book production and the term "internet", itself, has no index entry at all. Despite this, I found the book interesting and mildly entertaining for the novice book-hunter. Be aware, however, that the principal thrust of this book is

not the art of bibliophilia but rather the business of bibiocommerce, if I may use that term. One specific critique I have is with Mr. Ellis' advice on cleaning book jackets in which he suggests using rubbing alcohol, petroleum jelly and even rubber cement (!) to clean stubborn stains and adhesive residues from "slick" coated-stock jackets. I would no more let petroleum jelly near a book than I would a can of oil and, while he obviously feels comfortable making such a recommendation, I can think of no surer way to completely ruin a book than by getting greasy petroleum jelly on the pages. As for using "rubber cement" to remove the residue of gummy adhesives on slick-coated dust jackets, I have found that such adhesive residues can be removed quite nicely and completely by very carefully using the sticky side of a rolled-up piece of "Scotch" tape and GENTLY TOUCHING OR TAPPING the adhesive residue with the rolled up piece of tape (DO NOT apply the tape flat onto the jacket!). As for water-soluble substances on a coated-stock jacket: a just-barely-damp soft cotton cloth gently swiped in a single direction usually does the trick nicely. Never use any of these methods on absorbent paper, only on coated stock. And lastly, some advice I have yet to see in print about the care of books: wash your hands before touching your books because once its on the page, it, or its stain, is part of the book forever. So, unless your fingerprints belong to someone of particular note, your books will remain a lot more valuable without them!

I bought this book as I was starting into book collecting. But with about 4 months of intensive collecting and study under my belt, I found it not to have too much new or really useful information. Is is, however, very well written and engaging enough that I read the entire book. If you are starting at a slower pace than I did or if you are just thinking about becoming a book collector this is a fine place to start. It has chapter-length overviews of all the important realms and activities of book-collecting. The only weak-spot, but an important one, is in the area of internet books. In being about 2-3 years behind, it is not an adequate introduction to the range of online resources available to the new collector. Most useful was a list of "1001 more-or-less collectible books" listed by author at the back. (Lacking years of experience, such lists are critical for my reference). This is a useful thing to have around at book sales and the like (along with a good guide to first editions) although not especially wieldy as provided. I found that I finally photocopied the entire section in half-size and ended up with a more useful 5-6 page foldup that I could carry in my pocket. Note that this last section is NOT a price-guide and is not especially discriminatory... for many authors their rarest first book is listed along with much less collectible later works (and since the listings are alphabetical by title, rather than chronological by publication date, you will not be able to use it for parsing-out "first books". Overall a useful starting resource but one that you will rarely use once your collecting

becomes a more serious affair.

I like it! I'm a low-level collector that mostly buys books in the \$35-200 range, but I always wanted to understand what the pros knew and I didn't. If you are like me, a small time collector or someone who aspires to more grand heights, this will peek your interest and knowledge. Good information and value.

I found "Rare Finds," by Ian C. Ellis a very worthwhile book for the beginning collector. This book covers topics such as finding and trading books and caring for them. It touches on many topics and while this may not be a book for a seasoned collector, beginners will love it. This book also contains a section of authors who Mr. Ellis recommends to look for. I found this a great part of the book and it lead me to many new authors and books to read for enjoyment as well as to collect. This is a book that I have took with me book hunting and have used for reference many times. I was put off by the Goldstones in "Rare and Used," in their dismissal of this book, for I found it most enjoyable, interesting and informative. I recommend it to newcomers in the book collecting world.

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